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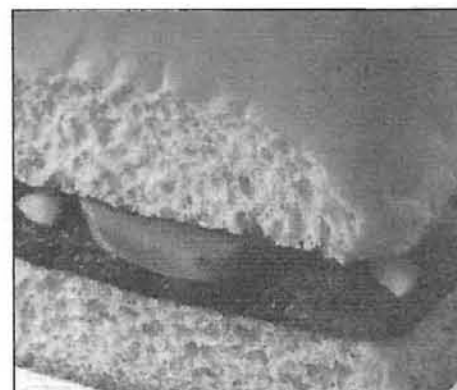
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August 16,
2004ISSUE
1123

The Current

Your source for campus news and information



See page 10

The Odyssey of Harold and Kumar

THECURRENTONLINE.COM

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

Students drink less than some expect

BY PATRICIA LEE
Staff Writer

College students often have a reputation for being excessive drinkers, but the average UM-St. Louis student may not fit this stereotype. According to a survey of UM-St. Louis students taken last spring, most students have less than four drinks per week. In fact, research has shown that college students do not drink as much as people may think.

"[College students] do have a reputation for lots of college parties and underage drinking," said Shemelle Davis, senior, nursing.

Michelle Schmidt, coordinator for UM-St. Louis' Drug and Alcohol Prevention, said that there are several reasons why students have this reputation.

"I think it has to do with the media," Schmidt said. "I think it has to do with movies from the past about the way college life was, movies like 'Animal House,' and I think that sometimes it has to do with the values parents pass down to their kids."

Another possibility is that many college students happen to fall into a young age group.

"If you're a college student, you're probably not going to be drinking as much as people your age who aren't going to school," said Andy Nichols, junior, marketing.

UM-St. Louis has not seen major problems related to excessive drinking. Schmidt said she thinks this may be due to the commuter status of the University.

"If they don't live here, they're not going to party here," Schmidt said.

Nichols said that he thinks drinking on campus may be safer than partaking elsewhere.

"It's better if you're on campus if you're drinking alcohol because it's easier to get back to wherever you're staying. If you're [living] on campus and you don't have to drive, then you can walk back to your dorm," Nichols said.

Schmidt said that another reason that drinking may be low on campus is that, "college students these days are taking their college career seriously. They're having to pay a lot more money for it, and they're either having to work part-time or full-time, so it becomes pretty serious for them."

For the most part, UM-St. Louis prohibits alcohol on campus. Alcohol is allowed in the Millennium Student Center for some events with approval from the vice chancellor of managerial and technology services and the director of the MSC. Students of legal drinking age living in Mansion Hills or the University Meadows are allowed to keep alcohol in their residence. In order to keep alcohol in an apartment at University Meadows, every roommate occupying that apartment must be 21 years old. However, in the residence halls, there are no exceptions.

The resident assistants are responsible for enforcing the policy.

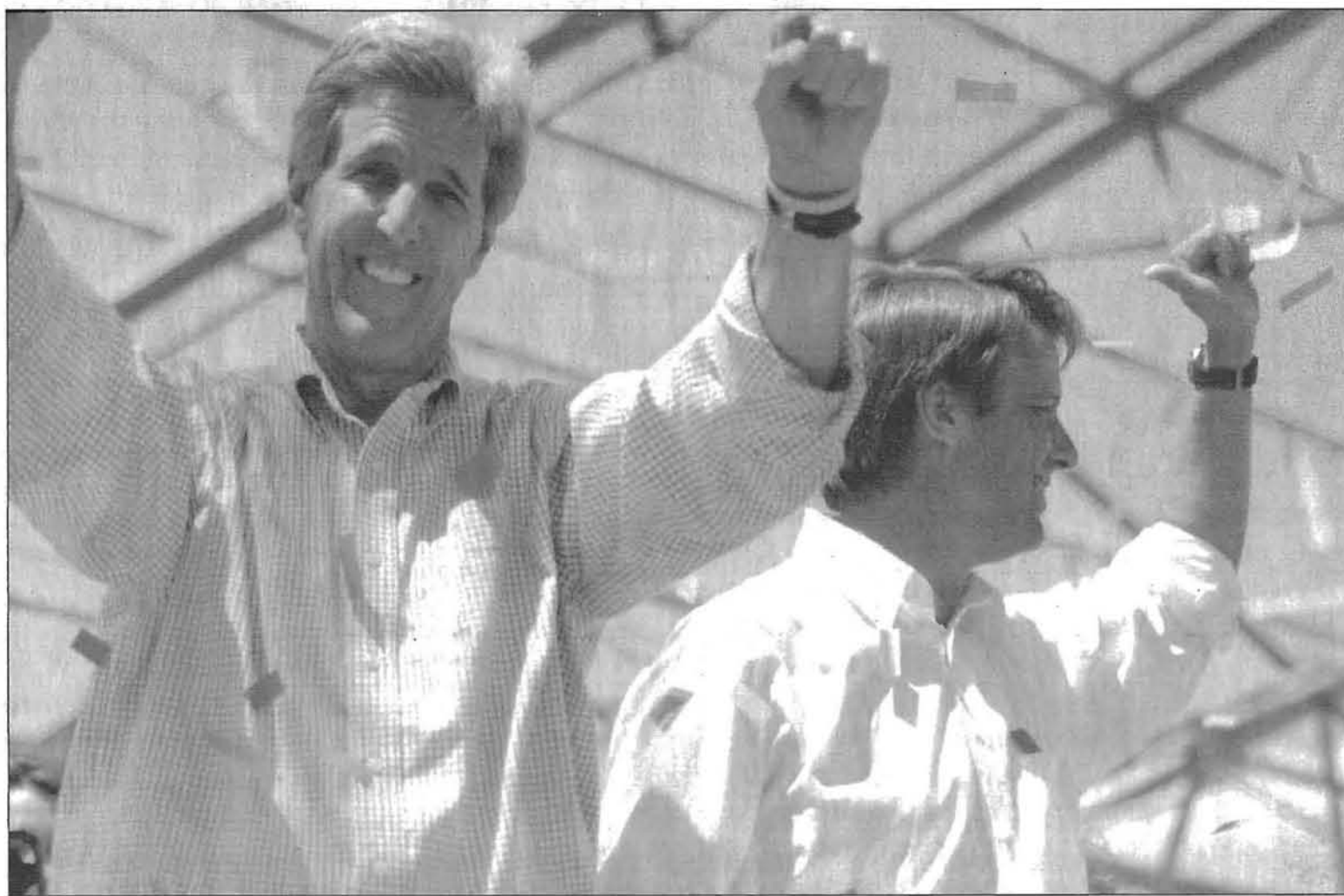
"Some of them might go after you if they think you have it, but they're really lax," said Matt Hull, junior, archaeology, and Villa Resident.

see ALCOHOL, page 12

INDEX

Bulletin Board	2
News	3
Opinions	4 & 5
Science Column	5
Features	6 & 7
Sports	8 & 9
A & E	10 & 11
Nut'n but the funk	15

Kerry vows to strengthen America



Casey Ulrich/The Current

John Kerry and John Edwards, presidential and vice-presidential candidates for the 2004 election, arrive at Union Station by train for the democratic rally on August 5th. St. Louis was one of the many stops on their current cross-county campaign.

Union Station rally draws thousands of supporters

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

Senator John Kerry vowed to the people of St. Louis that "We can do better," and that "America [will be] stronger at home and respected in the world." Kerry, playing favorites to the crowd, also boasted about the Cardinals having the best record in baseball, enjoying a concrete at Ted Drewes, the joy of celebrating the 100th anniversary of the World's Fair and more than a few allusions to Harry Truman.

The event, which took place on August 5, drew an estimated 15,000 people to Union Station as Kerry's coast-to-coast "Believe In America" tour rolled into town. Drove of supporters ranging from local firefighters and laborers to the Service Employees International Union and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, as well as the general public lined the streets to rally for victory.

The event began by giving local and state politicians the chance to offer their support to Kerry and bolster their own exposure as elections draw near.

Former Sen. Jean Carnahan, as well as son Russ and daughter Robin, both up for election in November, were among the ranks of democrats in attendance to support their party's nominee.

St. Louis mayor Francis Slay kicked things off welcoming the excited crowd. Before introducing Rep. Lacy Clay, 1st Congressional District, Mayor Slay reiterated the common themes from the Democratic National Convention. He spoke of Kerry's plans to strengthen the American military and save jobs from being outsourced.

Clay took the stage and confidently announced that Senators Kerry and Edwards "are our next President and Vice-President." He touched on issues of healthcare that Kerry has centered much of his campaign speeches on, namely affordable prescription drugs. Clay also took the opportunity to hit on the public education situation in St. Louis and asserted that Kerry will do more as a president



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Dave Grohl, of the Foo Fighters, performed at the John Kerry/John Edwards rally that took place at St. Louis's Union Station on August 5. The Foo Fighters and several other bands are working on a musical compilation called "Rock Against Bush," due out on April 20.

to ensure optimal funding for the public school systems nationwide then our current president has.

Speaking personally after his speech Clay said, "that the Kerry-Edwards team are truly committed to turning this country around." He chronicled how Bush came into office inheriting a surplus during a time of peace and prosperity and over the course of his presidency turned it all around.

"We have record deficits annually, we'll have a record deficit for years to come, and we've lost 2 million jobs," Clay said.

The event turned to star power as Foo

Fighters lead singer Dave Grohl, who said, "I'm your average American," performed an intimate, one-man acoustic set of his band's better-known tunes, including, "Learn To Fly," "Times Like These" and a mellowed version of, "My Hero." After his performance Grohl declined to comment on why Kerry-Edwards is the best ticket for younger voters.

Sean Astin, of "Lord Of The Rings," and "Rudy" fame spoke next, delivering a decidedly enthusiastic endorsement of Kerry.

see KERRY RALLY, page 14

PPRC study finds pattern of inaccurate local tax assessments

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

The Public Policy Research Center (PPRC) at UM-St. Louis recently conducted a study which showed some problems with property tax assessments for three of Missouri's fastest growing counties.

Steve Gardner, PPRC research specialist, shared what he believed was the main purpose of this study.

"The study was done to determine the actual level of assessments in these counties, because there is no precise process in Missouri to determine these results," Gardner said.

The analysis looked at various property tax assessments compared to the value that homes sell for in St. Charles County, St. Louis County and in St. Louis City. They also studied appraisals and tax rates for commercial and business properties under these jurisdictions.

Almost 47,000 buildings in these three counties had their sale values and taxes studied by the PPRC.

After extensive research, the study showed that assessments in St. Louis and St. Louis County failed to fully capture market values for many residential properties. Also, the study found that homeowners of lower cost properties in St. Louis paid more in taxes than did owners of higher valued residential properties throughout the city. St. Charles County met Missouri standards for property assessment levels, whereas St. Louis and St. Louis County showed to have lower assessments and problematic consistency.

The problems with these inaccurate tax rates are primarily due to appraisers estimating incorrect home values.

The 197-page study showed that the values of homes in St. Louis County were set at 20 percent too low. The law in Missouri says that correct appraisals for homes and businesses should be 100 percent of the market value. The values of properties in St. Charles County met professional standards because they have been set at 95 percent.

"One of the research methods used was that we took the sale prices for homes and businesses over a one to two year period from these counties and compared these values based on standard values," Gardner said.

Not only did Gardner put a great deal of work into this project, but also PPRC Director Mark Tranel helped this study reach its completion.

see TAX ASSESSMENTS, page 12

Red and Gold Roundup kicks off Welcome Week

BY KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

On Sunday, August 15, close to 2,000 people celebrated UM-St. Louis' annual back-to-school picnic. The Millennium Student Center reflected this year's theme, Red and Gold Roundup, as members of the Welcome Week committee wearing cowboy hats, bandanas and other cowboy accessories greeted visitors.

By 4:30 p.m., the Nosh was full of students, their families, orientation mentors, members of the Welcome Week committee, a DJ, a face-painting clown and a buffet provided by Chartwells. The annual event traditionally kicks off the year and a week of events geared toward the UM-St. Louis community.

Gloria Schultz, director of the campus bookstore and auxiliary services, served as a member of the welcoming committee.

"I'm really pleased that so many new and returning students turned out," she said. "A lot of students brought their families, which is nice. We had the chance to get acquainted with them as well."

Chartwells served up a Red and Gold Roundup-themed buffet at no cost to those who attended. Visitors had a choice of pasta salad, barbecued meat, corn on the cob and baked beans.

The staff and residents of Residential Life announced their entrance as the group, wearing matching t-shirts, rode down the escalator ringing cowbells.

Shane McKee, graduate student, higher education, recently moved to

St. Louis from Texas to serve as the new graduate assistant in the halls.

"I've already met so many people. It feels like a second home here," he said. "Oh, and the sloppy joes at the welcome picnic were awesome."

Gallery Visio also opened its door on Sunday afternoon to draw attention to the student art located in the Millennium Student Center near the Pilot House. The Gallery's exhibitions display student and faculty art throughout the year.

Alvin Walker, president and curator of Gallery Visio, said that the program is currently celebrating the return of students to UM-St. Louis.

Pat Dolan, director of athletics, also welcomed students, families, faculty and staff back to school.

see WELCOME BACK, page 14



Mike Sherwin/The Current

Jennifer Skinner hands out tickets for a door prize raffle on Sunday evening, during the "Red and Gold Round Up" Welcome Back Barbeque. The event marked the beginning of Welcome Week.

Bulletin Board

Put it on the Board:
The Current Events Bulletin Board is a service provided free of charge to all student organizations, University departments and divisions. Deadline for submissions to The Current Events Bulletin Board is 5 p.m., every Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Send submissions via mail at 388 MSC, Natural Bridge Rd., St. Louis, MO 63121, fax at 516-6811 or email at current@jinx.umsl.edu.
All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.

Aug 15 to Sept. 15

"Back to School" show

Gallery Visio, located in the Millennium Student Center near the Pilot House, will display its "Back to School" exhibit. Gallery Visio features the artwork of UM-St. Louis students and faculty.

Mon. Aug. 16 Fine Arts and Communication new student convocation

The college of Fine Arts and Communication will hold a new student convocation at 7 p.m. in the E. Desmond and Mary Ann Lee Theater at the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center. A reception will follow. New students and guests are welcome to attend this free event. Reservations are not required, and parking is available in Lot K. Call 516-5007 for more information.

Tues. Aug. 17

KWMU global warming special airs

KWMU (90.7 FM) will air "Climate of Uncertainty," a special documentary that discusses global warming and the differing scientific viewpoints on the impact of human actions, from 2 to 3 p.m. Call 516-5968 or visit www.kwmu.org for more information.

17 Arts and Sciences' new student convocation

The College of Arts and Sciences will hold a new student convocation at

Wed. Aug. 18

Fall classes begin

Fall classes begin at 8 a.m.

Thurs. Aug. 19 Clearly You Crystals

Clearly You Crystals is a 3-D scan of a person's face that is laser-etched into crystal. Visitors can buy their crystal as a souvenir for \$1.

Thurs. Aug. 19 Comedy Showcase

Honest John, comedian who has been featured on Comedy Central and the Def Jam Comedy tour, will be performing in the Pilot House at 7 p.m. A DJ and other comedians will make the evening a complete comedy showcase.

Fri. Aug. 20 MTV Beach Party

Theo Gantt, member of MTV's The Real World Chicago, and Amaya from The Real World Hawaii will be attending the Beach Party at the University Meadows Clubhouse and Pool. There will be food, prizes, giveaways, a DJ, a Mechanical Bull Riding Contest, a Limbo Contest and Aloha Sack Races. The Beach Party will take place from 8 p.m. to midnight.

Sat. Aug. 21 "Spoken Word" contest

A DJ from KPNT Radio (The Point) will act as emcee throughout the night as a number of people get up to read and perform their poetry. Sponsored by Building Operations, the UM-St. Louis Bookstore and Student Life. Visit the Student Life website at www.umsl.edu/studentlife or call 516-5291 for more information.

Mon. Aug. 23 Snow Cones

Campus Administrators and the staff of Student Life will host this event from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Millennium Student Center bridge. Visitors can mingle and meet new people while enjoying free snow cones.

Tues. Aug. 24 Rec Sports Day

Rec Sports Day will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the Millennium Student Center patio. There will be a Free-Throw Basketball Contest and a Hold-in-One Golf Contest. Participants will be eligible for prizes.

Wed. Aug. 25 Karaoke

The University Program Board and the Office of Student Life will host a karaoke event in the Pilot House from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Free refreshments will be provided.

Wed. Sept. 1 Hump Day Hoopla

Come test your jousting skills and take a break from your classes. Check out Hump Day Hoopla, sponsored by the University Program Board. This event will take place from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in front of the Millennium Student Center. All Hump Day events are free.

Sundays

Newman Center mass

The Catholic Newman Center will hold mass every Sunday night at 8:30 p.m. in the Bellerive residence hall chapel. All are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the Newman Center at 314-385-3455.

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Corrections

In the July 26 Orientation Issue of The Current, the staff editorial failed to recognize Pi Kappa Alpha as an active fraternity on campus. The organization was reinstated at UM-St. Louis last year.

The article about Career Services stated that the center would email critiques resumes back to senders, when in fact, resumes will be mailed. Also, a \$10 fee is required yearly to continue use of the job search database.

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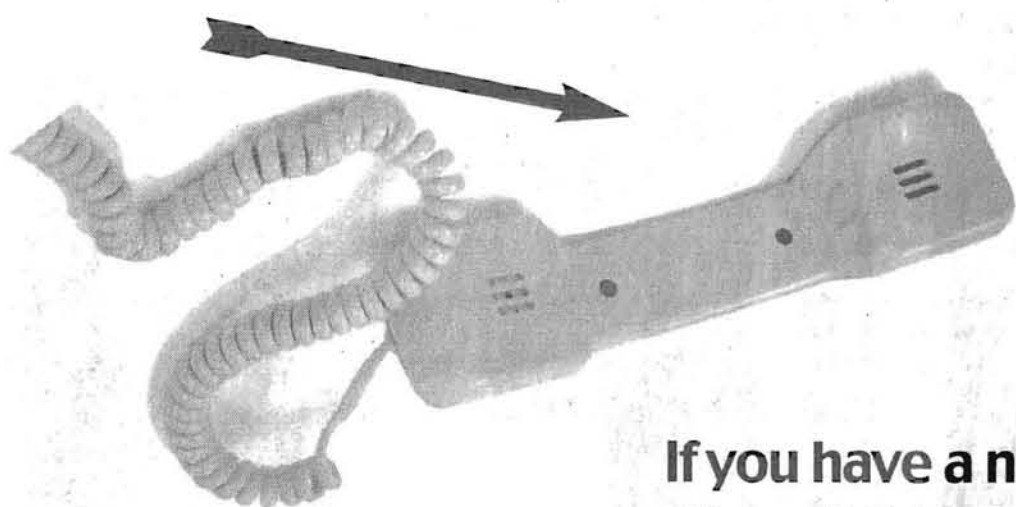


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Jesse Gater/ The Current

Dean Bob Bliss and students of the UM-St Louis Pierre LaCade Honors College discuss ways they can help incoming freshman at the mentorship meeting held Thursday.

Honors College combats low graduation rates

New program will use mentors and a revamped freshman symposium

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

Pierre LaCade Honors College is seeking to improve the quality of higher education as laid-out in a campus wide pilot called The First Year Experience Program.

"This is an experiment, it's a work in progress," Robert Bliss, Honors College Dean, said.

In the past colleges designed the first year curriculum with a gate-keeping mentality. The challenging work was intended to discover who was the best and the brightest. However, this has led to low graduate rates in many universities as it wound up weeding out the weaker students.

At UM-St. Louis, the rate of entering freshman who go on to graduate in 6 years is roughly 40%. Colleges and Universities have now begun to look into improving those numbers. John Gardner, a student-retention specialist, hailing from the University of South Carolina, has pioneered much of the research in this area.

These studies have shown that institutions need to focus on moving away from the gate-keeping mentality and instead promoting an academic environment that fosters the potential

for success within every student without lowering academic standards.

This is going to be a process of trial and error as campuses explore innovative policies and programs. The honors college is trying to create an integrated, dynamic first year experience that is also academically substantial, so that "students come out with a love of learning," Bliss said.

This involves a revamping of the freshman symposium. The new model is modular, consisting of a central symposium that all freshmen will attend, strengthened by individual and more specific seminars that will integrate, and study in depth the general knowledge from the central class.

The core, known as The Cities Symposium, examines subjects through the perspective of a city, to, among other things, stimulates awareness of the benefits from attending a metropolitan research university.

Associate Dean Dennis Bohnenkamp said, "I think that the new symposium integrates the ideas of the city with the various academic disciplines so that there's more of an emphasis on the way the two interact."

In addition, taking an important role in this course is a group of students, called mentors. These upper-classmen from the honors college will

attend the central symposium, assist with discussions and share valuable knowledge they have gleaned from their own experiences.

"What I've read convinces me that upper class undergraduates are closer to the kinds of decisions freshman will be making and be able to help individual students surmount whatever challenges they may encounter," Bliss said.

Sarah Barcheck, senior, marketing and finance, and a mentor said, "I want to show the students at the Pierre LaCade Honors College how rewarding their experience at UMSL can be as opposed to the misconception belief that UMSL is simply a commuter campus with no culture, atmosphere or opportunity for growth."

Helping to recruit new freshman for the program is Maureen Callahan. A 2004 graduate of Butler University, Callahan joins the college as their new admissions counselor. The position is demanding, but Callahan notes, "the people have been extremely helpful, because it's a lot thrown at you at first, but people have been really helpful."

Nancy Gleason, who is also assuming the newly created post of assistant dean, will oversee the writing intensive portion of the symposium.

Marriage amendment passes with landslide victory

BY WILL MELTON
News Editor

On Aug. 3 Missouri became the first state in the nation to amend their constitution so that marriage is defined as being between one man and one woman. The measure passed overwhelmingly with over one million votes in favor of the amendment.

Reaction throughout the UM-St. Louis community has varied. Griffith Taylor, senior, management information systems, who hails from Trinidad and Tobago, a place where anti-homosexual sentiment runs high said,

"For a country that always boasts of its people being free and always trying to promote freedom in other countries it's contradictory to be biased towards gay weddings."

Some students do not see the issue as one of bias in a bigoted sense. Vice-president of the College Republicans, Joe Stobie, said that it is within the proper authority of the government to regulate marriage.

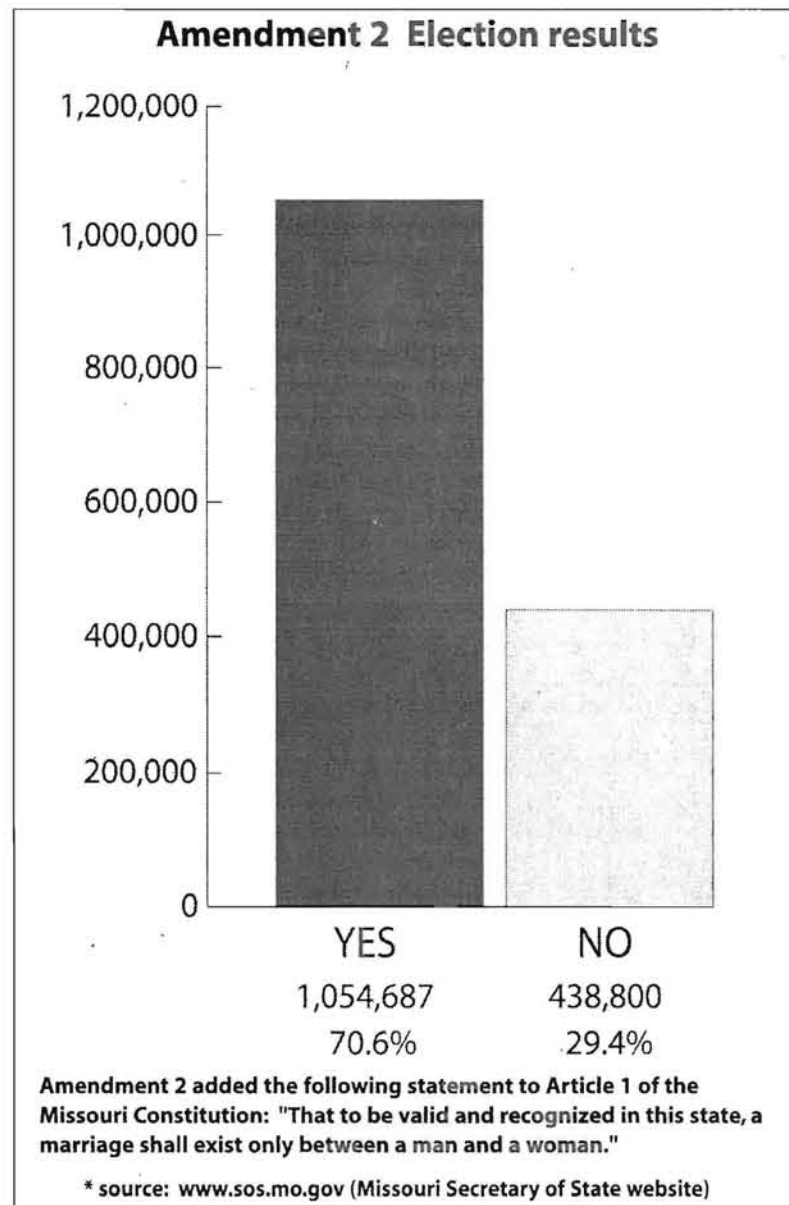
Sen. Jim Talent of Missouri argued that limiting the definition of what constitutes marriage already exists. We do not allow polygamy or incestuous marriages. Hence, he argues, there is nothing discriminatory about defining marriage to the exclusion of homosexuals.

Other people think that the state should stay out of the issue altogether.

"My theory on amendment two is that the government needs to actually get out of marriages altogether. Marriage is not a secular thing it's more of a religious thing," David Hart, apartment coordinator for Mansion Hill and University Park, as well as openly gay said. "If the government wants to do civil unions for people, be they straight, gay or whatever that's great for the tax benefits. I think that actual marriage is a religious institution and that should be left to the churches."

Missouri already has a state law that already effectively defines marriage in this way, but there was a growing concern that judges may determine it to be unconstitutional. An amendment would effectively end this possibility before it happens.

However, this could be just the beginning of the issue. As Martin Rochester, professor of political sci-



ence notes,

"The problem is this, even if we get a state constitutional amendment, ultimately, I think this is going to go to the U.S. Supreme Court. The reason is what is called the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution. Technically under the full faith and credit clause of the U.S. Constitution states are obligated to recognize marriages in other states."

Thus it is unclear what happens if a couple married in Massachusetts moves to Missouri. Those couples would likely argue under this clause that Missouri has to recognize their union despite the laws and amendment.

"We have the potential for chaos," Rochester said.

Further complicating the matter is something called the Defense of Marriage Act passed by Congress, "that essentially was done to try to forestall the full faith and credit clause that is, it was designed to ensure that just because Massachusetts [or any other state] endorses gay marriages it wouldn't be enforced on other states," Rochester said. "Ultimately, the only way to avert chaos is going to be for the U.S. Supreme Court to make some ruling on this."

Similar legislation has been proposed at the federal level. Earlier this summer the Senate voted on a bill proposing to amend the U.S. Constitution. It lost 48-50, which is twelve votes away from what it needed to proceed.

Travis named dean of Barnes College of Nursing

BY GARY SOHN
Features Associate

Lucille Travis was announced as the new dean of the Barnes College of Nursing and Health studies at UM-St. Louis on July 1. Travis, arriving from Texas Women's University, where she served as interim dean of the College of Nursing, says she is ready to take on the challenges that come with her new position.

"My responsibility as dean is to support the strategic plan of the chancellor and dean which is to increase research enterprises, increase our visibility as a college in the community, both regionally and nationally, and continue to maintain the quality of programs that we do offer," Travis said.

Travis said she was drawn to UM-St. Louis because the "faculty and staff seemed excited and really poised to move the college to more prominence in the community and nationally."

When asked what people should know about her, Travis said she has two children, is a big sports fan and has already seen the Cardinals, looks forward to attending programs at UM-St. Louis like soccer games and enjoys racing her corvette in the straight quarter mile.

Travis earned a bachelor's degree in nursing, a master's degree in nursing education and a doctoral degree in higher education administration from Ohio State University. After receiving her doctorate, Travis said she wanted to make an impact on the education of potential leaders of education.

"I was interested in developing future leaders in nursing," Travis said. "We do a good job at teaching clinical skills, but I wanted to be able to do more with teaching navigating health care organizations and educational organizations."



Jesse Gater/ The Current

Lucille Travis was appointed dean of the Barnes College of Nursing and Health Studies.

Travis also taught nursing classes and did nursing research in addition to being an administrator for Women's Texas University.

"I researched heart failure patients [using] technology called trans-telephonic monitoring."

That is where you put a stethoscope in someone's home and send the sound of the person's heart or breath over the phone," Travis said. "This is the same technology used when astronaut John Glenn went up in the space shuttle."

Travis said she hopes to get contacts with local heart failure clinics so as to continue studying heart failure patients here in St. Louis.

"Barnes College of Nursing offers fully accredited bachelor, masters and doctoral nursing education programs. It has record enrollment with close to 435 undergraduates, 100 Registered

Nurses to be, and about 200 in the masters program." Kathy Furgason, director of Student Services, said.

Despite having high enrollment, there are still abundant positions available in the field. "There is a shortage of nurses expected to go into 2025," Furgason said. "There is 100% employment if they want it. Hospitals and agencies come here offering signing bonuses that range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Some even pay off student loans."

In order to become a nurse, a student must pass the National Council Licensure Examination. At 97.73%, measured from July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004, Barnes College of Nursing has the highest passage rate in the metro area. Saint Louis University had a 96.84% passing rate. And the Sinclair School of Nursing at Mizzou had a 92% passing rate.

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- **Marillac Hall**
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- **Millennium Student Center**
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- **Research Building**
Room 323 (Biology Graduate Student Lab), Fourth Floor Common Area
- **Seton Hall**
1st & 2nd Floor Lounge Areas
- **Social Sciences Building**
Rooms 131, 132 and 133
- **Stadler Hall**
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OUR OPINION

Amendment violates church-state separation

Missouri legislators recently voted to amend the state constitution. A document which states in its Bill of Rights, "that no person can be compelled to erect, support or attend any place or system of worship," has now been changed so that it explicitly limits marriage to heterosexual couples.

Some people have argued that this amendment has nothing to do with religion merely because its text does not specifically mention religion. However, it is hard to believe that validity of that point when you consider the words of men like U.S. Rep. Mike Pence of Indiana.

On July 22, 2004, Congressman Pence argued during House floor debates that "The Bible says 'if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?' And marriage is such a foundation in our society. Marriage was ordained by God." It is clear where the motivation for this amendment comes from.

Imagine that a resolution was proposed to ban people from eating pork. That act may never specifically mention a religion, but the principle behind it is very clear. Therefore, this amendment may not violate the separation of church and state in its choice of words, but in the values it is promoting it does. Unless a specific, legally-based argument was presented, this example supports facets of a certain faith.

Forcing homosexuals to either accept heterosexuality or never experience the gifts of marriage unjustly pressures them to support a system of worship, which goes against Missouri's Bill of Rights. No one has really said why homosexual marriages are wrong outside of the context of religion.

Some people have argued that homosexuality is destructive to a society, but they often fail to provide a legally based argument. Divorce is

destructive to society, but it is not under scrutiny by Congress. If the government is so concerned about the state of marriage, it should focus more on unstable relationships that result in divorce.

One of the stereotypes about the gay community suggests that homosexuals engage in indiscriminate sexual activity, and blames homosexuals for rapid increase of HIV. Even if this was true, shouldn't the people who believe that support an initiative within the gay community that promotes long-term monogamous relationships?

If marriage is such a stabilizing force in a society, how can it destabilize society by opening it up to more people?

Others have argued that legalizing homosexual unions will lead to the acceptance of incestuous or polygamous marriages. There are valid reasons against each of these practices. Children born from incestuous relationships are prone to genetic deformities. Polygamy poses legal problems, such as dividing up an estate between living spouses. It also poses a health care issue, i.e. if a man had four wives then how many of them would his insurance be responsible for covering?

None of these arguments apply to homosexual couples. They cannot procreate, so there are no potential risks for a child being born with physical abnormalities. Since marriage is ideally a monogamous relationship, the administrative problems associated with polygamy are inapplicable as well.

In truth, it boils down to a majority of people with a certain religious belief enforcing their values on another group of people. Homosexual couples want the same legal rights as their heterosexual counterparts. So how does a free society, one based on the importance of separation of church and state, vote to limit the civil rights of a population?

The Issue

Missouri legislators voted to amend the state constitution so it bans homosexual marriages.

Many of the arguments that support the ban are religion-based, rather than legally based.

We suggest

In the interest of maintaining a separation of church and state, the government should not dictate the sexual orientation required for couples to form a civil union and share legal rights.

So what do you think?

Tell us what you think! Drop us a line at the office, 388 MSC, or online at our website www.thecurrentonline.com

The role of journalism

What is journalism? I answered this question a few times during my interview for the editor-in-chief position. My response always sounded eloquent in my head, though it usually came out slightly garbled as a group of people stared and waited for my answer. Now that I'm not under scrutiny and the fate of my employment is no longer in limbo, I think it's important that readers understand my vision for The Current.

Journalism plays an important role in society. From major metropolitan areas to UM-St. Louis, a newspaper's purpose is to serve as an unbiased vehicle for information. Throughout history, media has served the public by providing information, exposing wrongdoing and educating the masses on relevant issues.

Unfortunately, scandals in the national media have put a serious damper on the institution's credibility. Earlier this year, USA Today reporter Jack Kelley was found guilty of fabricating a sickening amount of stories, several of which were nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and last year New York Times reporter Jayson Blair was also caught submitting articles with little or no factual basis.

I attended a management seminar for college newspaper editors this summer. One of the valuable bits of wisdom they passed on was the importance of goal setting. Some of my goals for this year include expanding the diversity of our coverage and opening lines of communication between The Current and our readers.

UM-St. Louis is home to 16,000 students of varying ages, gender, ethnicities, backgrounds and lifestyles. I want every student to have a reason to pick up the paper every week, and our coverage will reflect that. Once school starts, I'll hold regular office hours, and the staff is always available via email. Please let us know if you have questions or comments, either directly or through a letter to the editor. We will look into issues of concern, and take action if necessary. Our staff is willing to grow, and we look forward to your input.

Maintaining unbiased coverage is essential to our credibility. That being said, The Current is not a public relations machine. We do not exist to make the University "look good" or "look bad."

We are here to report what goes on. Our credibility is in jeopardy if we pander to a certain group. Asking us to do so is nothing short of insulting. If a newsworthy event occurs, the integrity of journalism calls us to cover it, whether the circumstances are negative or positive. News happens every day, and it's important to understand that we work hard to present a balanced view of what happens.

To put it simply, journalism speaks the truth. I take The Current's role seriously. As editor-in-chief, I will continue to impress upon the staff the importance of honest, unbiased coverage of UM-St. Louis and our surrounding community so that you, the reader, have a reason to pick up a copy every week.



KATE DROLET
Editor-in-Chief

Take a vacation

Get up, shower, go to class, eat, go home, study and go to bed. It's almost time to return to the daily routine again. Along the way, you also must also manage to work and juggle family time.

For many of us, the stresses of the school year have crept up even sooner than expected. I feel as if I just finished with my finals and escaped the stresses of my classes from last semester, but here we are again, days away from another semester.

When you grow up and start working summer is not the same anymore. No more riding bikes to get snow cones or spending all day out in the hot sun without worrying about your cell phone ringing with another work call. It feels like yesterday when summer actually felt like I had time off. Now that I work, summer is hardly considered a vacation.

This summer was no different than the last five years or so. Since school ended I spent most of my time working at my wonderful produce clerk job and the other half working at school. A vacation has seemed far out of reach, however it's exactly what I have been striving for. A weekend away from the stresses of everyday life can refresh you before returning to the daily grind.

In my opinion, everyone needs a vacation. Getting away for even a weekend can benefit you. I must admit, though, coming back to see 30 messages in my e-mail inbox and 10 voice messages on my answering machine can be overwhelming. It can also be hard not to pick up your cell phone when you are gone, since we are all living in an extreme electronic age when

people have to be told to turn off their cell phones while in classes or sitting through church on Sunday.

Getting away from your laptop and traveling somewhere you will enjoy prepares you for the constant strains that are ahead. Be spur of the moment and decide a week or even day before to take a trip. Camping is also something easy and cheap to do. Gather a group of friends or just bring your significant other on a trip.

Traveling to an unforeseen place is intriguing. Not knowing what you are going to do or where you are going makes things even more exciting. Just like entering a class without knowing anyone, it is up to you to make the most of the moment.

Money may be the problem for many individuals wanting to take a vacation. I know that I am no different. I just decided to take my last week of vacation pay and have a great time with what I have. Anyone can have a good time without a lot

of money.

Another reason to take a vacation is to spend time with the ones that you love. During the semester some students get so caught up in their class work that they neglect to pay attention to their families. Family is the most important part of your life. They will always be there for you.

Going back to the everyday school routine is not always a bad thing. Classes may cause anxiety, and working may put even more pressure on you, but when you feel too stressed, get away for a weekend. It can refresh you and make you feel better than ever. Everyone deserves a vacation sometime.



BECKY ROSNER
Managing Editor

What's your opinion?

How do you feel about the topics we've written about?

- Amendment violates separation
- The role of journalism
- Take a vacation

You can make *your* voice heard in a variety of ways!

- Submit a letter to the editor
- Write a guest commentary
- Visit the online forums at TheCurrentOnline.com



Steve Arnoneit
Senior
Information Systems

Mostly just work and hanging out, and I went to Florida for awhile.



Shelly Congemi
Senior
Political Science

I went to Florida with my boyfriend.



Dustin Mendoza
Graduate Student
Biology

I saw a porn star at a strip club.



Caryn Schmitz
Senior
Psychology

I went to Las Vegas.

STUDENT JOURNAL

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"Our opinion" reflects the majority opinion of the Editorial Board.

LETTERS

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 200 words will be given preference.

We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

Under Current

by Casey Ulrich
Photography Director

What's the most exciting thing you did this summer?

SCIENCE COLUMN

Is it stem cell research or therapeutic cloning?



BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

When Ron Reagan Jr. spoke at the Democratic convention last month, it was not to talk about jobs or the Iraq war. Instead, the son of President Ronald Reagan spoke about an issue in which he has taken a personal interest: stem cell research.

During his speech, Reagan described this research as "what may be the greatest medical breakthrough in our, or any, lifetime." Criticizing partisanship on the issue, he urged Americans to choose between "reason and ignorance, between true compassion and mere ideology" in stem cell research. Yet when Reagan described what he called "stem cell research" in his speech, the description he gave was actually closer to therapeutic cloning. The two are related but they are not the same.

Let's start with some basics. Cloning in molecular biology and genetics means making a copy. That copy is not necessarily a whole organism; it can be a bit of DNA or a entire gene. It just means identical copies. However, when most people talk about cloning, they generally mean cloning the whole organism, as in the case of Dolly the sheep, the kind of cloning that yields an offspring.

This kind of cloning actually has more than one type, depending on the goal, although both types yield a clump of cells that has the potential to grow into a whole organism. In reproductive cloning, the goal is to produce a baby. The nucleus, with its DNA, is removed from a host egg and replaced with a nucleus, with DNA, from a cell from the donor.

The egg is stimulated to begin dividing and developing, and the embryo is then implanted in a womb. This embryo is genetically identical to the source for the DNA. The baby has only one genetic parent with whom it shares all its genes. The DNA is the

same, just like for identical twins, which occurs when a developing embryo essentially splits into two embryos and yields two distinct people with the same DNA.

For therapeutic cloning, the goal is to produce a source for embryonic stem cells. Just like the procedure above, the nucleus with its DNA is removed from an egg and replaced with a nucle-

us

ative cloning is a baby. The cells of therapeutic cloning are never going to be a baby.

A stem cell is the undifferentiated cell that has the potential to become any kind of cell. All embryos start with embryonic stem cells. Embryonic stem cells have the potential to become any type cell in the body.

In children and adults, organs and tissues throughout the body also have stem cells but these somatic stem cells are more specific for that tissue. When a person gets a bone marrow transplant to treat leukemia, they are being seeded with new somatic stem cells for blood.

But there are problems with using somatic stem cells. For one thing, they are hard to find. They look like any other cell in the tissue and are few in number. For some tissues, like spinal cord, it is not even known if the adult stem cells exist, since these are tissues that do not add more cells or grow in that sense in adults. Blood cells are continually replaced so the body needs stem cells to generate these new blood cells.

The number of neurons in your brain is thought to be fixed. As adults, our bodies still have somatic stem cells to replace cells and repair tissues throughout our lives but these somatic stem cells are generally less flexible than those original embryonic stem cells.

In stem cell research, researchers are attempting to unlock the secrets of how stem cells can be stimulated to produce particular types of cells and tissues. The eventual goal is to understand and control the process and have cells that can be transplanted into patients to treat or cure diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes, or spinal cord injury. Researchers also hope to gain a greater understanding of genetic diseases and perhaps development.

Therapeutic cloning and reproductive cloning both can raise ethical and moral questions. With reproductive cloning, the issue is clearer. Do we want to allow this kind of reproduction or not? However, we do have to be aware that banning such procedures in the U.S. would not stop them from happening in the rest of the world.

With donor DNA and the egg is stimulated to begin dividing. But in this case, the cells are never implanted in a womb and are never going to produce a baby. Embryonic stem cells are taken from the very early stages of development of an embryo, when it is a ball of just a couple of hundred cells.

If the donor DNA comes from a patient to be treated with the stem cells produced, then the stem cells have the same DNA as the donor and are genetically identical.

Therapeutic cloning yields embryonic stem cells. The goal of reproduc-

see STEM CELL RESEARCH, page 14

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fan defends UMSL sports

This email is in regard to "The State of Sports" article written last week. I found it funny how someone in your position can sit back and speculate on the mediocrity of the athletes and coaches at UMSL.

There are always a number of factors that contribute to a season's outcome. Yes, a fair amount of it is based on the coaching staff, players, and let's not forget finances. Personally, I feel that overall, the teams did very well this past year. As a matter of fact, each team finished the season in higher standings than they were expected in the pre-season polls. Well, all except the Men's Tennis team, which surprisingly was not mentioned in your arti-

cle. Weren't they supposed to win Conference and possibly Regionals last year? Or maybe you found it degrading to comment on this issue seeing how you are a member of the Men's Tennis team. It must be easy to tear down other teams but gets kind of tough when it comes to your own.

As far as getting more fans in the stands, there obviously has to be a reason to come to a game. Whether it is the status of the team, the half time show, to support friends/classmates, or as a previous article stated to see the cute boys on the Baseball team, it doesn't matter. What does matter is that the players need the fans to perform every night just as much as the fans

need the player to perform. As a former athlete, I know how much a supportive crowd can influence a game. Their positive energy is contagious.

However, I do not see how bashing the other teams will encourage more fans to come out. I would think that a man in your position would do his best to support other athletes as well, and encourage others to do so. In my opinion, you should stick to writing about things that you know something about.

Sincerely,

An Upset Fan

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Moore creates lie with 9/11

Catherine,
Your review is troubling to me. You say that Michael Moore used a combination of "truth" and "farce" in Fahrenheit 9/11. In reality Moore used a combination of truth and lies to create a bigger lie, and to obscure the line between the truth and the lie.

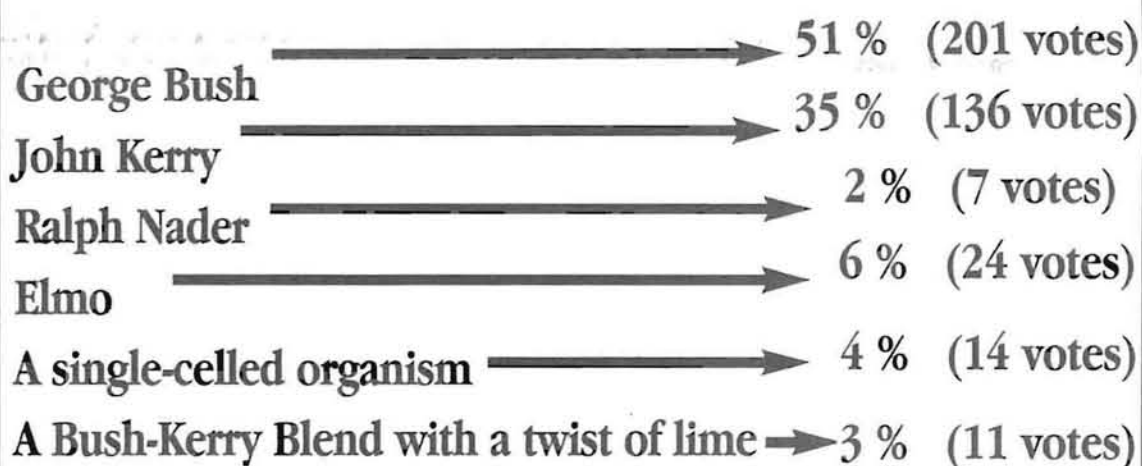
My assumption is that Michael Moore could not make his point in his "documentary" by telling the truth, so he had to artfully mix truth and lies in a dishonest attempt to sell his point of view. Looks like Moore's attitude is: when the truth can't get the job done, then lie too. Seems that for Moore the

ends justify the means. It appears to me that in your review you used the word "farce" to disguise the word "lie."

Bob Frese
MIS Grad Student

What do the readers think? Results from the web poll:

Who/What would you like to see win the presidential election?



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STUDENT

EDITOR

MELISSA MCCRARY

Features Editor

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UMSL eye care center gives service and learning

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

The University Eye Center at UM-St. Louis is a full service eye care facility that not only helps patients, but also provides students studying optometry professional experience.

Manager of Communications and Marketing for the College of Optometry Tracy Santhuff describes how optometry students can get involved with the clinic.

"Third-year students can get involved with internships conducting examinations," Santhuff said. "During the students fourth year they can participate in an externship that focuses on other optometry settings, research and practices."

Students are required to work so many hours at the eye clinic before they can fulfill their degree requirements.

Shawna Hill, fourth year optometry graduate student has worked at the University Eye Center.

"As my first year, I worked at the front desk and that was helpful with learning about patients' needs and the process of health insurance," Hill said.

see EYE CARE, page 12

Strassenfest: beer, brats, polka...and scholarships?

Proceeds help send 6-8 students abroad each year

BY GARY SOHN
Features Associate

Strassenfest, held each year in downtown St. Louis, is not just about beer, brats and polka music. This event is also about raising funds for educational studies in German language and literature.

Strassenfest originated in Columbia, IL and eventually crossed over to St. Louis in the mid-70s when it outgrew its space due to its continuous popularity. When the German event expanded to St. Louis, organizers looked for volunteers to help run the event since it was relatively new to the area.

Rolf Mueller, department chair of foreign languages and literatures, says that he remembers Strassenfest organizers approaching UM-St. Louis for assistance because he was teaching at the time.

"There were about six or seven of us working booths selling brats, beer, trinkets. We had many warm summers out on the pavement vending for six to eight hours a day," Mueller said.

Proceeds from the booths went into a trust fund that eventually paid out scholarships based on the interest it made. About six to eight students received \$600 to study abroad per year.

Eventually Strassenfest in St. Louis, in the '80s, grew in size and reached popularity as it had in



Casey Ulrich/The Current

The German Strassenfest was held in downtown St. Louis, attracting a large number of visitors. The event is held annually and provides UM-St. Louis' Foreign Language and Literature department with scholarship money for students to study abroad.

Columbia, IL. It eventually became more professional and UM-St. Louis staff was no longer needed to help with the event.

Even though there were no more profits to be made from Strassenfest by UM-St. Louis, it still received money from Strassenfest donated to the continuation of German studies.

Mueller said, "The Strassenfest committee was impressed by UMSL staff and continued to donate money to German Scholarships because of that.

And it is nice of the Strassenfest committee who has a German interest to be committed to helping out UMSL."

Besides Mueller, the other founding fathers of this scholarship, and former professors at UM-St. Louis, are Paul Hoffman, and Alfred and Inge Gossel.

Dr. Inge Gossel taught German language, literature and culture for 30 years at UM-St. Louis. She says that she is proud of the scholarship because

"It started with a very small scholarship that grew into an endowed scholarship, and it's something that will continue for years to come," Gossel said.

The endowed scholarship has helped fund nearly one hundred students since its creation. Gossel said that UM-St. Louis had at one time produced most of the high school German teachers in the St. Louis area.

The Foreign Languages and Literatures German Scholarship is

offered to qualifying junior and senior German majors and minors. There are several requirements for students looking to qualify for the scholarship.

One must be declared a German major or minor and have a junior or senior standing in the foreign language department (enrolled in 200 or 300 level foreign language courses). Need at least six hours completed in a German course at UM-St. Louis. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 in the department and an overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 is needed.

Students are then asked by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures to submit a letter stating how they meet the criteria, describe how the scholarship will be of benefit, list at least one faculty member in German as a reference and enclose a copy of their transcript.

Applications can be sent to Dr. Rolf Mueller, Dept. of Foreign Language & Literature, 558 Clark hall.

The deadline for the application is December 1, 2004.

Strassenfest was held in Memorial Park August 6, 7 and 8. There were three separate stages that had several local bands play which include the Smash Band and Dr. Zhivegas. The event featured carnival rides, German food, classical cars, arts and crafts and German music.

The festival was a success with good weather and its well-known popularity.

"Strassenfest is not about beer and lederhosen. It is about what can be done with the funds earned at that festival. And the scholarship is one example thereof," Gossel said.

Surviving the rising costs of college

Work study program help students get paid and gain experience

BY ERICKA HARRIS
Staff Writer

Are you looking for a job that offers flexible hours and decent money while attending college? If so, then the Federal Work Study Program (FWSP) might be the option for you.

The Federal Work Study Program is designed to help undergraduate and graduate students with financial need and meet educational expenses through meaningful employment, according to the UM-St. Louis Financial Aid website.

The online Financial Aid website, lists the current openings for on-campus employment, Federal Work Study Positions and degree related off-campus positions.

The main difference between a regular part-time job and working through (FWSP) is that work-study student's earnings consist of an award based on their financial need.

Cynthia Foht Career Services Specialists said, "Students can find jobs on or off campus. Just about every department on campus offers jobs to work study students."

There are numerous job openings around campus. Some of the positions include biology peer tutors, education tutors, computer lab staff, clerical aids, research

assistants and athletic department employees.

Amy Tenny, Day Care Assistant for the University Child Development Center described some of the current positions open to students.

"We have part-time employment available, where students work as a teachers aid in classrooms, assisting two full-time teachers," Tenny said. "The hours vary from mid-afternoon and in the mornings."

One of the biggest advantages to working at an on-campus job is the convenience. Campus employers are considerate when working around a student's busy schedule. It is easier for students to request time off if they have a test or a big project due.

Most positions can be part-time year round, full-time year round, per semester and summer availability.

Josh Eaves, senior, philosophy, has worked in the philosophy department for over two years.

"I help assist professors by preparing course material, organizing, filing, copying and researching," Eaves said.

One off-campus employer, Support Dogs, is an organization that trains dogs for use by the blind. The Ferguson/Florissant School

District is another participant, where Foht says work study students help children develop positive attitudes toward reading as well as help them improve their reading skills. Other employers that work with (FWSP) include the St. Louis Science Center and Commerce Banks.

The Federal Work Study hourly wage is based on the current federal minimum wage as well as skill level and number of years of participation in the Federal Work Study Program. Students are paid for hours worked biweekly and the money is issued by direct deposit.

Foht went on to say how the money earned from work study jobs does not have to go directly towards school expenses, the money can also be used for living expenses, and whatever else the student might need.

Because employers understand that a Federal Work Study participant's primary role is as a student, most offer flexible hours.

At UM-St. Louis about 100 students participate in the in the Federal Work Study Program.

Usually when a student applies for Federal Financial Aid or completes a FAFSA, they can request work-study assistance.

see WORK STUDY, page 12

Financial Aid offers scholarship resources

BY MELISSA MCCRARY
Features Editor

The UM-St. Louis Student Financial Aid Office gives financial assistance to students by offering over 300 scholarship opportunities.

All of the scholarships provided by the University are listed on the UM-St. Louis financial aid website.

Each scholarship page is divided into categories such as Diversity, Freshman General, Freshman Department, General, Graduate Department, Graduate General, Missouri Scholarships, Transfer Students, Undergraduate Departments and Undergraduate Programs.

Although the majority of scholarships are awarded to incoming freshman, there are also awards for students of all grade levels and studies.

The departments of Business, Chemistry, Biology, Art History, English, Education, Nursing, Criminology, Foreign Language, Communication and History are just a few that give out scholarships.

Jane Ferrell, assistant to the dean at the College of Business said that

they award about 50 scholarships each year.

"Most of the business and accounting scholarships are merit-based rather than need-based," Ferrell said. "We usually look at the highest GPA and the classes that the student has taken."

On the web page, each scholarship describes its requirements, values, renewability and application procedures.

Most applications are available online or can be picked up in the Student Financial Aid Office. There are incoming freshman scholarship applications, continuing and graduate student applications and other department applications. All forms and applications must be completed and submitted by their stated deadlines.

Christine Rethlake, a student financial aid coordinator, shared when is the best time for students to apply.

"For freshman starting their senior year in high school, when they are applying for admission, they should also be applying for scholarships," Rethlake said.

see SCHOLARSHIPS, page 12

Students share summer memories

BY CARRIE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Although summer may have seemed to slip by too quickly, many UM-St. Louis students managed to make the most out of their vacation.

Traveling is often at the top of students list of things to do as the spring semester ends. Costal destinations are generally what come to mind when one envisions a summer vacation.

Instead of hitting the beach Melissa Pastorius, junior, physics, headed to the foothills of the Appalachians in West Virginia. Pastorius was not only able to enjoy a trip to a beautiful location; she also had the chance to help others. "I went for a service project to help rebuild houses," Pastorius

said.

After she returned from West Virginia, she decided it was time to earn a little money.

Part-time jobs fill up fast as the end of May approaches and college students have an access of free time. Frequently restaurants and retail stores are where these individuals go to seek employment, as are grocery stores such as Save-a-Lot, which is where Pastorius spent the remainder of her vacation accumulating some cash.

After a little time to recuperate from the school year, many choose to attend summer classes. Summer school at UM-St. Louis is popular among students who want to graduate early, or like Jenny Heinz, senior, graphic design, hope to make the upcoming fall and spring semesters a little less stressful.

"I took six credits this summers so I will only have to take 12 hours the next two semesters instead of 15," Heinz said.

The only complaint Heinz seemed to have was the short two-week rest period given in between, summer and fall classes.

While some had specific plans in mind for their three-month vacation, others do not remember how they spent the majority of their summer.

Keith Jennings, junior, communications is one of those who were not able to give a clear answer when asked what he had accomplished this summer. One explanation Jennings gave was the absence of those books with the class schedules in them.

see SUMMER VACATION, page 12





THE MARK — OF THE — THE NEEDLE

Tattooing is a modern art with a long history: more than four thousand years

BY GARY SOHN
Features Associate

A 4,000-year-old iceman was found bearing it on his skin. Captain Cook brought news to Europe of its methods practiced in Tahiti in 1771. College students today can be seen having gone through it, bearing it on their skin.

Tattooing is an ancient art form that has been practiced for thousands of years among several different cultures. The mark of the tattoo is, in most cases, permanent and anyone who bears at least one tattoo recalls that the process of getting a tattoo is painful.

So why do so many people, from different times and cultures, bear the painfulmark of the tattoo?

Dr. Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris, lecturer of both Anthropology and the College of Education, says that besides it being fashionable to some, a tattoo is about identity.

"When I was first tattooed, my daughter, who was just a little girl at the time, was excited that I had one. Because I had one she wanted one too. Her baby-sitter also had a tattoo," Lewis-Harris said.

Next she talked about how tattoos are used as a form of identity.

"So I had to get a magic marker and give her one. She wanted a tattoo because she identified them with people she loved and liked," Lewis-Harris said.

This identity, said Lewis-Harris, goes back thousands of years. She said that people get tattoos because they want to identify with their people.

"People in the Pacific and here

know that they will have a hard time getting a job because they're tattooed. It's a painful process. So, if tattoos are not about identity then why else would they get one," Lewis-Harris asked.

The ancient tradition of tattooing has been practiced for over a thousand years, and has been passed from place to place, from the South Pacific Islands to Europe and eventually to

— “ —
After going through tattooing, you get a tolerance for pain...You have to be able to withstand pain and in the process findout something about yourself. It is a badge of honor.

- Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris

CenterStage Tattoos located in U. City Loop.

The first known tattoo dates back 4,000 years B.C. to the body of a man found preserved in a glacier. The ice-man was found in the Otzal Alps between Austria and Italy in 1991.

The body was found to have 58 tattoos that were likely done with charcoal with simple dots and lines. The skin also bears a cross behind one knee.

Tattooing was also a custom during

ancient Egypt. Mummies were found bearing tattoos.

Amunet's mummy, who was the priestess of the goddess Hathor at Thebes during the eleventh dynasty (2160-1994 B.C.), was found with tattoos on the arms and thighs as well as an elliptical design below her navel.

Statuettes decorated with designs similar to the ones found on Amunet were buried with male mummies were supposed to arouse the sexual instincts of the dead male and ensure his resurrection.

Egyptologists feel that the statuettes called "brides of the dead," were symbols of fertility and rejuvenation. When the Egyptians passed on their culture, their art of tattoos traveled with them to Crete, Greece, Persia and Arabia.

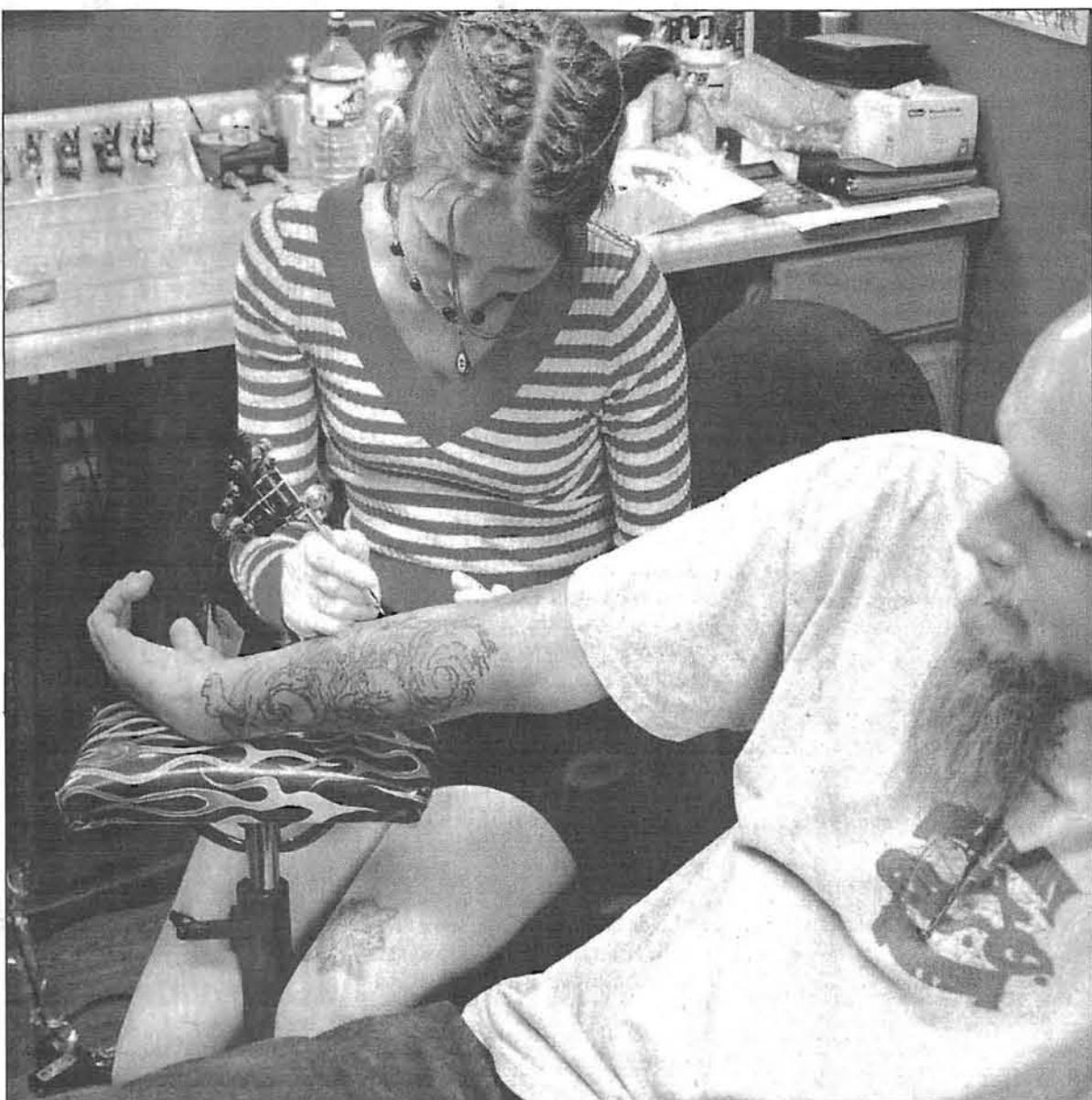
Greeks used tattooing communication among spies, while Romans used tattoos to mark criminals and slaves.

In Japan, Tattoos were also used to mark criminals. First offenses were marked with a line across the forehead. Adding an arch marked a second crime. A third offense was marked by another line. Together these marks formed the Japanese character for "dog."

In Europe, Pope Hadrian banned tattooing as a barbaric custom in the 8th century. For almost 4 centuries, there was almost no mention of tattoos.

It was not until Captain Cook brought news of the practice and the word to Europe after seeing tattoos performed in 1771 called "tattaw," using for the first time the word "tattooing," before this, tattooing has been called painting or staining.

see TATTOOING, page 12



Jesse Gater/ The Current

Amanda Maire Pepper takes pride in the fact that she produces quality body art for her patrons. She is one of the many talented tattoo artists at CenterStage Tattoos located in the heart of the U-City Loop on Delmar Blvd.



Dobi Kidu (left), tattoos Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris' (right) left wrist in this photo from the mid-1980s in Papua New Guinea. Kidu used a thorn as a needle that was attached to a bone which allowed her to tapp ink into the hand. This form of tattooing has been done in the South Pacific for about 2,000 years. Lewis-Harris is a lecturer in Anthropology at UM-St. Louis.

Photo courtesy John Nunley

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GLVC to
add three
schools in
2005Drury, UM-Rolla and
Rockhurst will join

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY

Sports Editor

The Great Lakes Valley Conference will add Drury University, Rockhurst University and UM-Rolla beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year. This addition will increase the number of schools in the GLVC to 14.

"Our institutional representatives have been discussing conference expansion for the last two years and are delighted to welcome Drury, Rockhurst, and Missouri-Rolla to the GLVC," said Jim Naumovich, GLVC Commissioner.

"All three institutions have outstanding academic reputations and strong presidential leadership and boast solid athletic programs. We feel their addition to the GLVC greatly strengthens our Conference and provides our member schools with a presence and additional visibility in three new markets (Springfield, Kansas City and Rolla, Mo.)"

The GLVC already boasts some of the best athletes in the country; it holds 10 NCAA Division II Basketball National Championships (nine men's and one woman's title), and for ten consecutive years a men's basketball team has played in the national championship game. Adding Drury University in particular will only enhance the high level of basketball; their women's basketball team was ranked as high as three in the country last year.

Several of the new athletic teams are likely to dominate other sports.

see GLVC EXPANSION, page 9

Looking ahead to fall sports season

Soccer, volleyball
and women's
tennis look for
strong start

BY DAVE SECKMAN

Staff Writer

This fall is already looking as if it could be an impact season for many of the fall athletic teams. For the first time in years there is not one team that looks inferior to the competition, and there is a great chance that not one of the teams will finish below middle of the pack in the conference.

The fall season is always a good one. Men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and women's tennis always start off the year with excitement and enthusiasm. This year could prove to be one of the best UM-St. Louis has seen in quite some time.

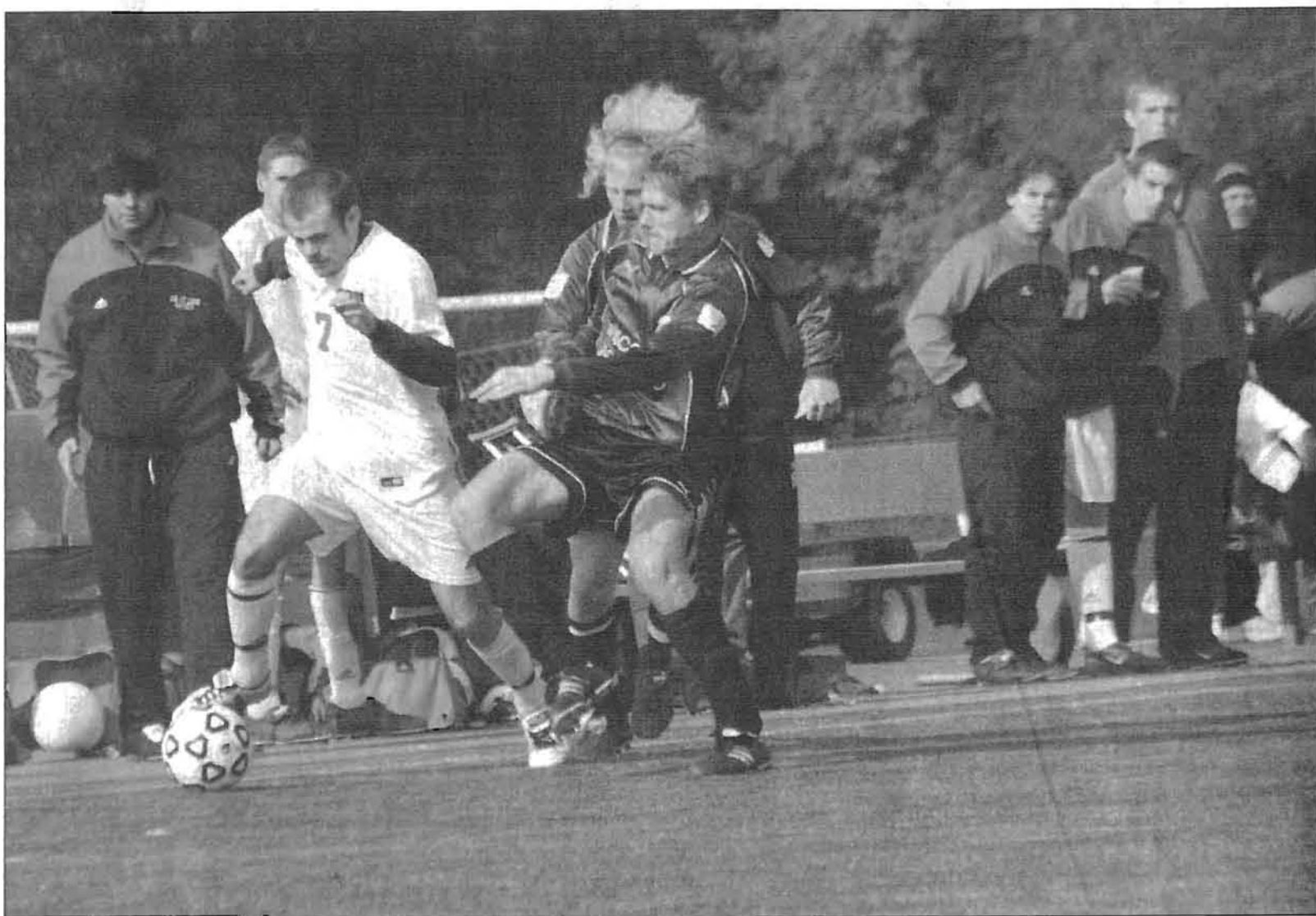
The Riverwomen soccer squad has not finished worse than fourth in conference play in the last five seasons and are already considered as a favorite for the conference crown. They have a core of upper class players that have the talent and the willpower to make it a championship season. This looks like it could be the year that the Riverwomen soccer team breaks through for its first GLVC conference soccer title and an at large bid in the NCAA tournament later on this season. Look for seniors Sonya Hauan and Jaime Drabek to lead the team this season.

The last few seasons have been a strong turnaround for the Rivermen soccer team. In 2002, the team finished second in the conference and in 2003 they ended up in sixth, which is something that the team hopes to improve on. This season brings back 10 returning starters to the field and a core of upperclassmen that completely dominates the squad. This year should be a significant improvement from 2003, and do not be surprised if you see them in the top three of the conference at the end of the season with the possibility of making their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1991. The seniors should make a significant difference in how the season turns out.

Senior Jason Barclay was eager to comment on the upcoming season.

"It is too early to tell, but we do have a lot of talent this year compared to the last few seasons. I am excited to see what this group can do," Barclay said.

The Riverwomen volleyball team has had a very large turnaround to contend with this season. This year could have potential to be a good one.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

Former Riverman David Walters drives the ball downfield during a 2003 game as his teammates look on. The Rivermen finished the season 6-13-1.

The team has had to deal with coaching changes very recently and also has to work with an almost entirely new lineup on the court this year. If you put all things into consideration, the new talent that has been brought in should help the team do well within the conference and they should have a great chance at making it to the conference tournament at the end of the year. Senior Ashley Richmond will lead the way this year as the team looks to make a quick start off the blocks to begin the season.

Riverwomen tennis has a lot to play for this season. They have their top three players returning this fall to lead the team into what could be a good season. This season looks as if it could be a turnaround year for them, and with the experience they have they could potentially finish in the top half of the conference. New coach Jason Hanes brings a new work ethic and attitude to come along for the ride, and expect every match this season to be a close one.

"We have worked hard and should have a good season ahead of us. We have our top three players coming back, and we should be able to compete in every match this season," coach Hanes said.



Mike Sherwin/ The Current

The Riverwomen will start the season with five returning senior players: Mary Kate McDermott, Blaise Bamberger, Sonya Hauan, Jaime Drabek and Brandy Lucero. The Riverwomen start the year with exhibition games in Fulton, Mo. on Aug. 21 and at UM-St. Louis on Aug. 23.

New recruits bring talent, enthusiasm to teams

BY DAVE SECKMAN

Staff Writer

This year seems to be a good year for new additions to the university. The UM-St. Louis campus has brought in a new chancellor, developed new plans for buildings in the future, and has constructed buildings that are opening new opportunities for the school. One of the things that the University seems to have lacking in the past few years is adding new talent to all of their fall athletic teams.

This year brings in one of the best and largest recruiting classes that the University has seen in the past few seasons. The new recruits that the Rivermen and Riverwomen soccer teams have brought in look as if they will make a large impact on their upcoming seasons, as well as the Riverwomen tennis and volleyball teams coming up with additions to their team that will surely bring team to higher levels than we have seen in previous seasons.

The Rivermen soccer team has added nine players this season after only losing three from last year. Those names include Doug Drezek and Tim Sellers, who are Florissant Valley Community College transfers that are projected to see a lot of time this season in the midfield. Also among the transfers are three players from Forest Park Community College, which include Kurt Schuler, Matt Anderson and Kraig Tenge. All three players should see significant time at the forward and midfield positions this season.

The lone freshman recruit is walk-on Jonathan Market who comes from Cape Notre Dame High school who won the state title in boy's soccer only two seasons ago. The list also includes two highly recruited players by the names of Ryan Hodge and Zach



Jesse Gater/ The Current

Claudia Medina, Heather Nichols, Ashley Crow and Mandi Fenner are the four of the new recruits on the UM-St. Louis volleyball team. They all can be seen in action on Sept. 1 when the Riverwomen play in their home opener.

Hoette. Hodge is a strong defensive minded player from Lewis and Clark Junior College in Illinois and is expected to see plenty of time in the back of the field this year. Hoette is a goalie brought in from a highly talented Illinois-Springfield team and is looking make an impact in the goal this season. Last but not least is the lone out of state player Adam Balbi, who looks to make an impact in the midfield this season. Head coach Dan King was pleased with the incoming talent.

"We have a strong group this year," King said. "These guys will be able to add experience and talent to our lineup, which is what will help us get to the next level," Coach King added.

The Riverwomen soccer team has added six new players to an already talented squad. Sierra Ellis, a freshman

from Cape Girardeau will be looking to make a strong impact as a forward or a midfielder this season. Also added to the team is a very technical and smart player in Christine Keim. Keim is a transfer from Southeast Missouri State University and we are seeing plenty of time as a midfielder and forward. The third player in the group is Lindsay Milliken, a recruit straight from Houston, Texas. Look for her to be a strong distributor in the midfield this season.

The next two players will add much needed strength to the defense. Blair Schuppan is a true defender who has a knack for attacking out of the back of the field. The second player is Danielle Troha, an All-American goalie who was recruited from Lewis and Clark Junior College in Illinois. Look for Troha to keep a clean sheet

for a good part of the season. The final recruit was Jaime Clark, who will bring good speed and talent to the midfield this upcoming season. She is a freshman from Hazelwood Central.

Head coach Beth Goetz was very eager to comment on her recruits.

"We have a lot of talent coming in this season, which adds more speed and technical skill to our lineup. Each of the girls has the potential to go out and play very well this season," Goetz said.

The Riverwomen tennis team added two new recruits this fall. Christy Bronson, a senior, returns to the team after having played for the team only three seasons ago. Head Coach Jason Hanes commented on Bronson. "She is going to bring a lot to the team," Hanes said. "She has grit, and she is tough to play against. She

should do very well this season and could make a significant impact on the season straight from the beginning," added Hanes.

The second recruit for the team is freshman Julie Williams.

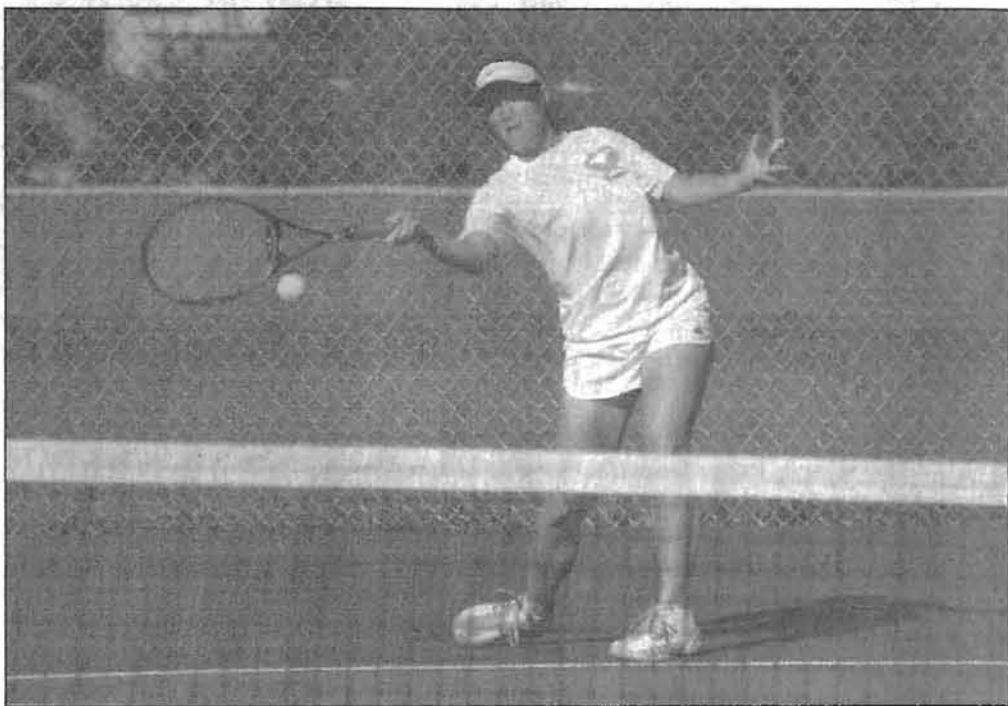
"She is still young, but has the ability to make a quick impact," said Hanes. "She has great potential and her work ethic is second to none. She should come into her own after the first few weeks of the season and she has the potential to add tremendously to the team," Hanes said.

The Riverwomen Volleyball team has seen a slew of changes hit them in the past few months. They have added six new players and a completely new coaching staff to the lineup for this fall. The group of six includes two junior transfers. Christina Blickhan is a transfer from John Wood Community College. Look for her to make an impact at the outside hitter position this fall. Also transferring is Junior Devan McFerren, who will see plenty of time at the outside hitter position as well.

The last four recruits are a group of freshman that have come from three different states. Ashley Crow is a freshman from Fair Grove, Mo. She should see plenty of time in the back of the court this season. Mandi Fenner is a freshman from Fort Zumwalt South in St. Peters, Mo. Mandi has a great chance to see time in the front line as a setter or an outside hitter. The last two players come from out of the state. Heather Nicholes comes from Edgewood High School in Madison, Wis. Heather is an outside hitter as well who could make a serious impact on the court this season. The last of the four is Claudia Medina, who comes from Las Cruces High school in New Mexico. Claudia is a 5'10" freshman who could be a large part of the offensive attack at the net this season.

Fall sports teams look for leaders to step up

BY DAVE SECKMAN
Staff Writer



Riverwomen tennis player Lauren Daugherty takes a swing during a game last October. Daugherty is one of four seniors on the team this year. The Riverwomen play their first game Sept. 3 at Indianapolis.

Jesse Gater/The Current

As the fall season gets closer to kicking off, UM-St. Louis athletic teams look for some familiar faces to come forward and stand out as leaders.

The Riverwomen soccer team has a slew of players returning to the lineup to once again compete for a conference title. Senior forward Sonya Hauan, who just came off of a very impressive junior season, leads the women into this season. Hauan led the team in scoring last season with 14 goals and 7 assists for a total of 35 points. She was named to the all-conference first team and also named to the all-region second team. Hauan has been an all-conference selection in all three of seasons she has played and is looking to continue her success this season.

"I want to be a leader this year," Hauan said. "This is my last season here. I want to have a positive attitude about soccer and to help my team by doing anything on the field that I can," commented Hauan.

The Rivermen soccer team had a more evenly balanced team the past few seasons, and has seen many ups and downs. Last season junior captain Jeff Menke led the Rivermen in scoring, and quickly made an impact on the field for the team. Menke recorded 6 goals and one assist on 32 shots for the season. Menke notched two goals in a 4-1 victory against Bellarmine

University, which could have arguably been his best performance of the year. He looks to build on last year's success as the season kicks off.

"We have a bunch of new talent coming in this season. I think that we really can do well, and I hope to do my part to help the team to the best of my abilities," said Menke.

After a huge makeover the Riverwomen volleyball team has new faces and a new attitude. After a disappointing start to last years campaign, the Riverwomen are looking to start on a winning note. The team will look to key returning players such as

Ashley Richmond, to help lead a very new and young squad to the courts this fall. Richmond has played in just about every match in her UM-St. Louis career. Last year she led the team in assists and this year she looks to build on her strengths to help lead the team.

The Riverwomen tennis squad will take to the courts with almost a full returning squad. Last year seemed to have new light as the women broke through to finish middle of the pack in the conference and they hope to repeat this year by using the experience that they have

gained. The team has several key players such as Lauren Daugherty and Krissy Howard that could make a significant impact on the outcome of several matches. New coach Jason Hanes will be entering his first full season as women's tennis coach after taking over the position from Rick Gyllenborg in the spring 2004.

"The girls have put in a lot of hard work this off season," Coach Hanes said. "With our hard work ethic and our top three players returning this fall, we have a good chance of improving on our standing within the conference," Hanes said.

Coach Hanes speaks on goals for upcoming tennis season

BY JAMES DAUGHERTY
Sports Editor

Jason Hanes is the new women's tennis coach. The following is an interview with him about his hopes for the UM-St. Louis women's tennis team.

Q: What is your tennis background?

A: I played junior college for two years, then played the number one position from '96-'98 at McKendree University.

Q: Where have you coached before UM-St. Louis?

A: I was assistant coach at a Division I school called the University of San Francisco for three years.

Q: What are your plans for the program?

A: I have an idea of how to build it up. The biggest change is that I am going to be a lot more aggressive recruiting. I'm going to let players know we really want them to come here. For financial purposes it is easier to give scholarships towards in state tuition, so we are going to try and recruit from around the state.

Q: What will your biggest obstacles be?

A: Many people will say funding, but that is just a crutch. I honestly don't know what the biggest obstacle will be, they all kind of tend to be what you make them.

Q: What are your team's strengths?

A: We have a good work ethic, strictly from a tennis perspective. So many on the team have put in work

over the summer that they didn't have to, and they work hard in practice. I'm not sure how they will react in matches yet, but you develop so much better when you work hard.

Q: What are your team's weaknesses?

A: As a team we don't have a big number one player who can push everyone else into their spots. We are the same from one to six, with no big players at the top two spots. That doesn't mean we have six of the exact same player, but skill level they are essentially the same. We really need someone to step it up, otherwise that top spot is going to be tough.

Tennis by nature is a negative sport. You lose because you make mistakes, or you win because the other person makes mistakes.



Jason Hanes
Women's tennis coach

Q: What is your philosophy for the sport?

A: Tennis by nature is a negative sport. You lose because you make mistakes, or you win because the other person makes mistakes. We try to be positive in speech, coaching, and playing to limit those mistakes. If you can stay upbeat and not get down on yourself you always have a chance.

Q: What are your team goals for this year?

A: The immediate goal is to finish better than last year. Really it is tough to see how much improvement will be done since I wasn't here before, but moving up a stop would be tangible improvement.

For more information on the coach Hanes and the women's tennis team go to umslsports.edu.

GLVC EXPANSION, from page 8

Drury University has consistently been ranked within the top ten in men's tennis for years and Rockhurst University was in the top twenty in the nation last year. Drury University is moving down from a Division I soccer program, while Rockhurst University's men's soccer team was 12-4. Drury University's men's basketball team qualified for regionals last year.

Having these teams added to the GLVC conference can be met with mixed emotions for UM-St. Louis. These additions will mean more

competition. UM-St. Louis's athletic teams are right around the middle in conference standings at the moment, so adding these three teams may lower UM-St. Louis's ranking. All three universities are competitive. Advancing to Regionals and Nationals means first getting out of conference, so many of UM-St. Louis's teams could be left behind.

There are positive aspects though. "I think the growth of the Great Lakes Valley Conference and the addition of Drury, Missouri-

Rolla and Rockhurst is beneficial to the conference and to the University of Missouri-St. Louis. With Rolla being in the UM system, we have always had a competitive rivalry with their athletic programs. Drury and Rockhurst both have a lot of student-athletes from the St. Louis area, which will create a more electric atmosphere with the larger crowds when those teams travel to UMSL and provide a benefit to the student-athletes during the competitions," said Pat Dolan, UM-St. Louis Athletic Director.

Another advantage is that some of the teams from these universities will be easy to defeat. Even if UM-St. Louis rankings slip too far behind the pack, perhaps funding will increase. Also, better competition is attractive to many aspiring athletes. The best of the positive aspects is simply that higher competition makes everyone better, from fans to coaches to athletes. Knowing that you have to work as hard as possible just to have a chance against your rivals brings out the best in all of us.

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PAUL CRUTCHER

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Lyttle delivers unique Soca sound

BY TANA ROGERS

Staff Writer

Kevin Lyttle exploded onto the music scene with his upbeat dancehall song "Turn Me On." The colorful music video quickly became part of MTV's heavy rotation, and the popularity of his first single reveals that the Caribbean's Soca music may quickly become a big part of the pop genre. "Turn Me On" blasts in most bars and clubs, instantly creating a party.

Lyttle's self-titled release is not completely a party CD. Apparently, this Caribbean singer is looking for that special woman with songs like "Call Me" and "Never Wanna Make U Cry." The disc has a total of five slower, romantic songs as well as some cheesy lyrics, such as "sign your name across my heart." In "My Love," Lyttle sings, "we'll fly my magic carpet," but in spite of the lyrics, this song strongly conveys his talent. "My Love" combines a medium-paced Caribbean beat with the unique sound of Lyttle's voice. The even slower "Ya Kiss" is one of the best songs on the album, providing an upbeat enough tempo to groove to while still being sexy and romantic. This song is the perfect backdrop to beckon someone from across the room with a glance for a slow dance.

Lyttle goes back to his roots for "Screaming Out My Name," another one of the album's hottest. This song, featuring reggae singer Assassin, reveals an authentic Soca sound. Even if you cannot do the Caribbean "dollar wind" dance, this song is definitely designed for dancing.

If you want some "flava" in your CD "playa," then go ahead and pick up "Kevin Lyttle." His first album has four exceptional songs, including his first release "Turn Me On." The disc includes a "Turn Me On" remix featuring reggae star Spragga Benz as a bonus track. Do not stop it after the bonus track, though, because there is an additional bonus song. If that fails to round out the goodies for you, the CD includes video features for play on your PC.

Then again, if you do not want to spring for Lyttle's unique Soca sound, pick up "Dancehall Nice Again 2004," with hits like Beenie Man's "Dude" and Sean Paul's "Like Glue." It boasts a variety of Caribbean music including Soca, reggae, and reggaeton, a Latin-inspired reggae sound.

Underwhelming 'Urban Legends' lacks bite

BY PAUL CRUTCHER

A&E Editor

A few years ago, there was a horrifying story detailed on a morning radio program. According to the DJs, a patron of a local fast food restaurant had recently discovered cockroach eggs embedded in the walls of her mouth. That story, it seems, is one of many that comprise a corner of our culture most commonly known as "urban legends."

A.S. Mott's latest book in a series dealing with the grim and fantastic seeks to answer some of the questions that these legends pose. "Urban Legends: Strange Stories Behind Modern Myths" takes on 48 tales in its 229 pages, offering for each background, explanations and specula-

tion, and a version of the tale itself. Mott breaks these 48 into six chapters: those involving food, the natural world, celebrities, death, murder and miscellaneous. Sketches accompany most tales, making that tumor on her chicken sandwich or the campus-slasher all the more vivid.

"Urban Legends" seems by initial description to have an interesting premise and a plenty to say to it. The art makes the strongest argument for the book. It mixes camp and realism and wide-eyed anime in a way that is more than reminiscent of books we read years ago that were trying to retain the fascination of picture books while moving us into reading that is more adolescent.

However, books of this sort can only rely so much on showing. The

paragraphs in "Urban Legends" outnumber the pictures in dramatic fashion, but fail to be as immediately purposeful, compelling or fun. Mott wrote the urban legend with a regretful sigh, speeding past the boring part for him to where and when he gets to drop his opinions about it. However, for all the intention he has at getting ahead of the urban legend, his discussion of them is often underwhelming. It becomes easy to read "Urban Legends" thinking there is something that interests Mott more. Unfortunately, that subject and Mott's power are somewhere on the grocery list or the date he was on after he finished "Legends."

That sensation hurts Mott and his book profoundly. His disregard for the legend and his desire to often

debunk or demystify them produces urban legends that lack tension or fright and commentary that is anything but "fair and balanced." If Mott were writing on a rare subject or in a sparse genre, even these large problems might be overlooked in favor of originality. Unfortunately, for Mott there are countless articulate, scholarly, scary and fun collections and works on urban legends and just as many experts to write them. With that perspective, only junkies or the wholly ignorant and forgiving should bother dishing out the ten-or-so dollars necessary to get a copy of Mott's "Urban Legends."

Recommendation: For urban legend fans or adolescents, but not much for anyone else. Underwhelming, if not informative and potentially interesting.

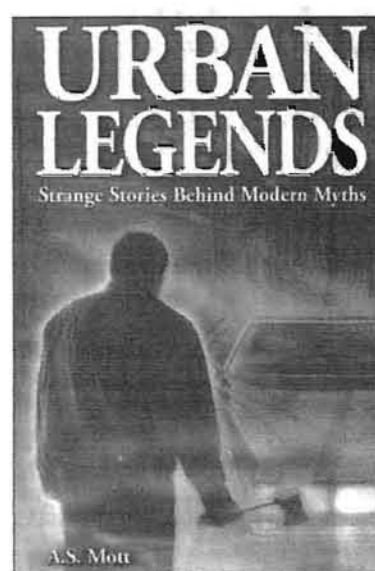


Photo courtesy Ghost House Books

'Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle' hits the spot

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER

Movie Critic

I fully expected the title of "Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle" would be the best thing about this movie. However, I was wrong.

Sure, the name still wins my vote for best "summer movie" title but what I was surprised to find is that this low budget, drive-in style comedy from Danny Leiner, the guy who gave us "Dude, Where's My Car?" is not quite as dumb as it appears. It is actually funny, in a low comedy way.

Far from being the usual summer buddy comedy or a "The Odd Couple" meets "Cheech and Chong" stoner comedy, "Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle" is sly and funny with an undercurrent of social satire and strong acting from Kal Penn and John Cho.

Don't get me wrong — this is not high art or a comedy classic. But, contrary to what you might have heard, this overnight adventure of two buddies in search of belly bombers is more than a pot-smoking version of the "Odd Couple" or another rehash of the tired clichés of the usual mismatched buddies movie. Unlike the average summer comedy, it is funny and appealing, in its low budget, dumb comedy kind of way.

A better comparison for this film would be to "There's Something About Mary," where the potty-joke comedy, mined by such comics as juvenile gross-out king Jim Carrey and the subconsciously mean Adam Sandler, was elevated to something sweeter while still in the same comedy genre. Surprisingly, Harold and Kumar's quest for belly bombers takes on an "Odyssey" like quality and even a kind of coming-of-age or transforming experience. Really. In a silly sort of way.

Korean-American Harold (John Cho) is a total pushover. He is begrudgingly persuaded to take home an assignment, due the next morning, for a conniving co-worker, although Harold is sure he is being conned. Out of earshot, the coworker brags to his buddies "What else would he do — all those Asian guys live to work." Harold fantasizes about asking out a pretty neighbor (Paula Garcés) but can hardly get up the nerve to even say hello as they ride the elevator together.

When Harold arrives back at his apartment, all he wants to do is finish the work assignment and then take the rest of the night off. But his scheming, slacker roommate Kumar (Kal Penn) has other plans — they need to go to White Castle for belly bombers right now! Kumar wheedles and harasses Harold until he convinces him to come along. After all, how long can it take to go for belly bombers?

Kumar is everything that the buttoned-down, shy Harold is not. The Ferris Bueller-esque Kumar lives off his allowance from his East Indian physician dad while he applies to med schools without any real intention of actually going to school. Having persuaded Harold to go for burgers (in Harold's car, of course), Kumar next insists that they have to stop to buy some pot before they dine on sliders. Once on the road, Kumar cannot remember exactly where that White Castle was anyway. Not unexpectedly, this trip gets more complicated than Harold expected.

These guys are all-American comic figures, on a quest for something that St. Louisans should be familiar with — the guilty, junk food pleasures of White Castle. Personally, I think these greasy little burgers can only be consumed late at night, preferably after a night of carousing with friends, and as a "pleasure" only for those who have the iron constitution to digest them. Still, like "Eat Rite" Diner, Ted Drewes frozen custard, and toasted ravioli, White Castles have much more cache than a trip to McDonalds, for local St. Louis atmosphere.

see WHITE CASTLE, pag 11

These guys are all-American comic figures on a quest for something that St. Louisans should be familiar with — the guilty junk food pleasures of White Castle.



Photo Courtesy of New Line Cinema

Sound off on Letter Kills' 'The Bridge'

BY GARY SOHN

Features Associate

Letter Kills' debut album, "The Bridge," released July 27, is twelve fast tracks blending '80's rock with today's punk.

Having spent most of their time on the road, Letter Kills has not had much time in the recording studio. They did not even have to come up with a demo tape to get signed. Island Records pursued Letter Kills, and signed them to their label empire based on their popularity as a "live" band. This is something that is rarely done in the music business—especially when hundreds of bands are out pounding on the doors of record executives with dozens of demo tapes, trying to get signed.

Island Records had good reason for signing Letter Kills so quickly. The band has gain, and managed to maintain strong fan support on the Internet and on the road. Their shows are known for being energetic and enter-

taining. Fans have flooded to their website, www.letterkills.com, that reveals pages of praise about their live shows.

Even other bands on the road love them. Story of the Year's band members, who are by no means a lightweight in the new punk scene, have been seen playing at shows wearing Letter Kills' shirts.

With that strong fan base, support from their music peers, and a music industry giant backing them up, one would think that "The Bridge" was sure to be a dynamic album. Unfortunately, this is not the case. "The Bridge" is nothing more than a quick marketing device by Island records executives who are quickly trying to capitalize on the rise of punk/rock, and Letter Kills' present popularity.

Track one, "Lights Out," pretty much sets the tone for the rest of the album. The song starts in guitar with a light feedback sound: "Dun Dun, Duna Duna Duna...Dun Dun, Duna Duna Duna..." The drums kick in on



Photo courtesy Island Records

Known for their energetic shows like the 2004 Vans Warp Tour, Letter Kills tried to translate the success of their live performances to their latest album 'The Bridge.'

the "Duna's" and sound like a coffee can shot up by a machine gun. Shelton's vocal sounds forced and strained, without emotion, like an actor simply reading his lines instead of feeling them.

"Bridge" lyrics are easily passable as high school poetry, and they often lack logic. Instead, lyrics deal in love hate, and marching on—stuff that would appeal to the demographic for "Dawson's Creek."

The rest of the songs, tracks 2 through 12, sound much like track 1, excepting lyrics, which highlights the best part of the album—the songs are relatively short. The average track is less than 3 minutes.

So how does a promising band like Letter Kills come up short on "The Bridge?"

The answer: lack of time in the studio to develop their craft. The band emanates energy on stage. Their theatrics work crowds into frenzy, as witnessed and described in July's Letter Kills concert review. But bringing this energy to the recording studio is not a simple task. Apart from being a young band (formed in 2002), they spent much of their time on tour. The same energy from tour, however, never made it onto "The Bridge."

Letter Kills has lots of potential to be a great punk/rock band, but until they spend more time figuring out studio dynamics, they may remain a fantastic live band with CDs that carry as much weight and intensity as the flyers promoting their next show.

Deceptively simple, 'Maria Full of Grace' is engrossing film

BY CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Movie Critic

Shot in a straightforward, documentary style, "Maria Full of Grace" is a fictional tale of a 17-year-old Columbian girl, struggling with the issues of growing-up in a small town, who is recruited as a "mule" for Columbia drug smugglers. What makes the story powerful is that Maria is so much like teens anywhere, despite the hardships of her life. But do not be misled by the simple directness of the film, there is nothing ordinary about it or about the actress in the title role. As Maria, actress Catalina Sandino Moreno vied with Charlene Theron in "Monster" for top honors at film festivals worldwide. Her nuanced performance alone could make this a must-see film for serious film fans but the strong and compelling story only sweetens the deal.

Director/writer Joshua Marston's "Maria Full of Grace" brings to life a story stripped bare of melodrama but with a realism more compelling for its ordinary directness. That this is Marston's first feature film is impressive.

This tale of a teen recruited as a

"mule" for Columbia drug smugglers is powerful because the characters are all so recognizable and familiar. They could be restless working class teens anywhere, although as the story unfolds, we become more aware of the Dickens-like hardships of their lives.

— " —

This tale of a teen recruited as a "mule" for Columbia drug smugglers is powerful because the characters are all so recognizable and familiar. They could be restless working class teens anywhere...

— " —

Teenaged Maria is sometimes sullen towards her mother and older sister, who is raising her baby as a single mother, and Maria resents the level of responsibility laid on her. She sneaks off with a boyfriend or giggles with her best friend Blanca (Yenny Paulo Vega) like any teen, but Maria shows fierceness that her friends respect.

Instead of a school principal breathing down her neck, it is the boss of the factory, where she works packing roses for export, who scolds Maria for not focusing on her tasks. Gorgeous flowers surround Maria but her concern is the thorns that pierce her fingers. Like any teen, she longs for more freedom, for fun and adventure, and resents the restrictions and limits on her life. Throughout the film, Maria reveals, by turns, her intelligence, her rebelliousness, practicality or naiveté. When Maria discovers she is pregnant, settling down with the boyfriend she does not love, in her little town where the only work is in the florists' factory, is not really the life she wants. As she casts about for something else, she meets new guy, Franklin (John Alex Toro), who says he knows how she can make some money. The job is as a "mule" carrying drugs to the U.S.

The result is a harrowing tale of tension and twists. The story really revolves around not just Maria but her friend Blanca and another girl she meets, Lucy (Guilied Lopez), who shows Maria the ropes of being a drug mule. The directness and the everyday humanness of Maria and those around her reject the maudlin aspects that this tale could have

taken. Instead, we get both realism and gritty suspense as the story unfolds. Since Maria herself often does not know what she wants or what she will do next, we are often on the edge of our seat as she thinks her way out of each situation. That the actress playing Maria has both great beauty and screen presence draws us to her character and into the story. No matter what twist or danger the story presents, we never forget that Maria is just a teenager. At times, she must call upon an inner strength to face a challenge but in the next scene, she is just a kid discovering the world.

Never heavy-handed, this film is a powerful piece both as a thriller and as social commentary, a too-rare mix. Director Joshua Marston uses an unpretentious touch and lets his unblinking camera and his lead actress carry the audience down his story's path. Beneath the film's surface simplicity is the unfailingly effective hand of the director shaping a powerful tale. As real and compelling as a documentary, this fictional film is an always-engrossing experience. In other hands, this film could have been sensationalized and overblown but instead, "Maria Full of Grace" is a spellbinding tale of both hope and tragedy.

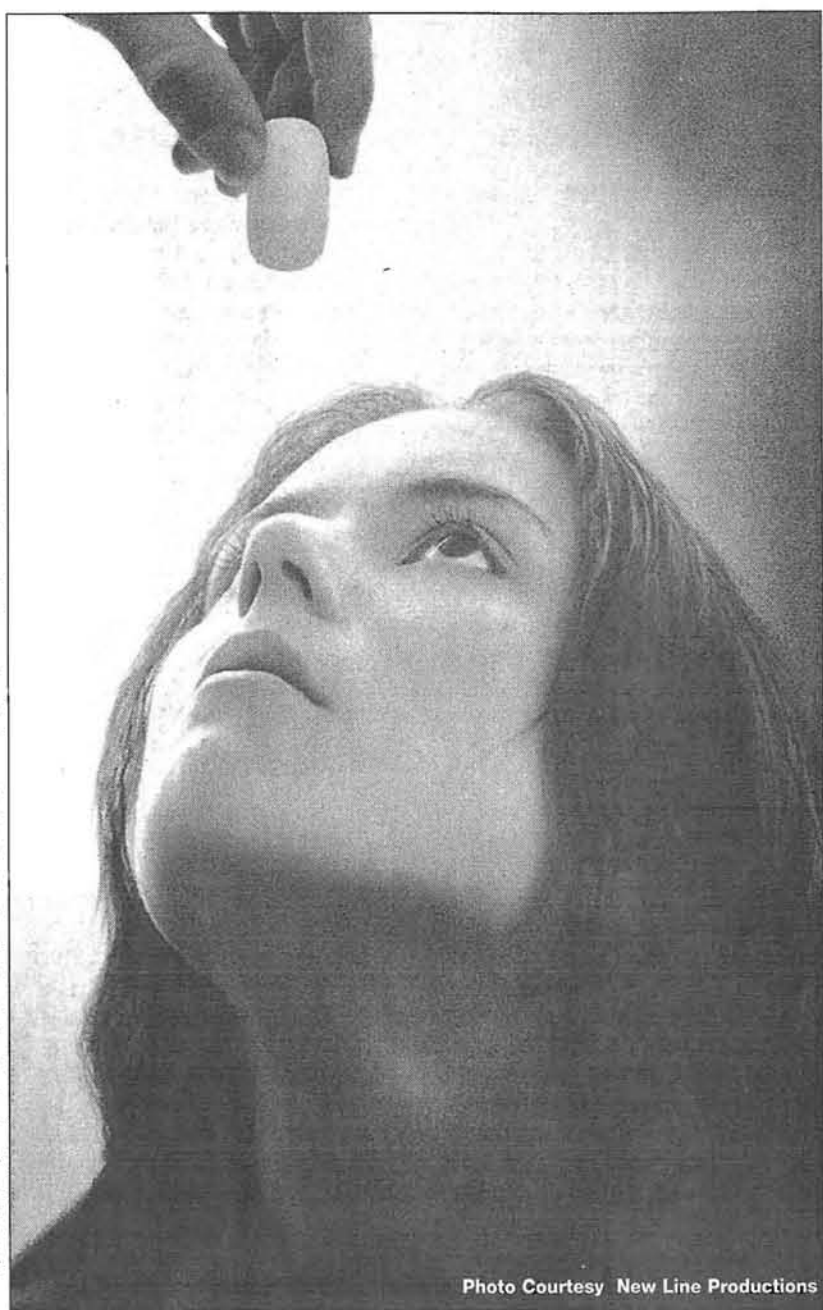


Photo Courtesy New Line Productions

Gingham's: better than your average 24-hour restaurant

BY MONICA MARTEN
Staff Writer

Late night cravings can usually be curbed by 24-hour restaurants such as Denny's and Steak 'N Shake. But if you want to try something new, head over to Gingham's at 1881 Sherman Ave. in St. Charles, a restaurant that promises a hearty menu.

My two friends and I arrived at about midnight. A few patrons dotted the dining room, and we did not have to wait long to be seated. We were seated in a booth outside the kitchen. The restaurant had red binds and green carpeting with the restrooms near the front counter. The dining room was large and dimly lit. Booths lined the walls, and tables are sat in the center of the room.

Customers of all ages sat nearby. Despite the number of patrons for the hour, the restaurant was not too loud. We only waited a couple of minutes for the host to take our order. A few items ordered were a slice of turtle cheesecake (\$2.25), a Coke (\$1.50), Meatloaf (\$6.59) and a hot fudge sundae.

We waited about fifteen minutes for the food. Despite being served with mash potatoes and gravy, the meatloaf was not all that good. It resembled cafeteria food. However, the desserts were good.

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert can be ordered at any hour. They offer more than just burgers with shrimp baskets, chicken and salads as well. Gingham's is relatively



Casey Ulrich/The Current

Patrons at Gingham's, like those shown above, can order breakfast, lunch, or dinner at anytime since it is open 24-hours. Gingham's is located on Sherman Ave. in St. Charles.

inexpensive, with everything on the menu being between \$5 and \$10. Our total bill was only \$13.64, and they do offer carry-out. Gingham's is small, comfy, and relaxing. You can come after work or in the wee hours of the morning. You can come dressed in whatever you feel comfortable in, stretch out your legs and just be mellow. Although there is a smok-

ing option, there is no outdoor dining or alcohol served. The three of us were able to relax and chitchat, without feeling like we were being rushed.

So if you are out late one night, hungry, and are not in the mood for the usual 24-hour diner, head out to Gingham's in St. Charles. It is a comfortable and relaxing place to eat dinner and not feel rushed.

WHITECASTLE, from page 10

Sure, it is dumb buddy humor but the buddies are different than the usual losers. Harold is full of seething sarcasm and Kumar is all charming con-man, but as all-American as these characters are, every time they run into some clueless American white guys, they are bombarded with stereotyping and insults. The ethnic humor swings both ways, with jokes about political correctness, Asian American clubs, Kumar's driven, overachieving family and an unfortunate, peaceful African American family man they encounter, who seems resigned to his fate as the focus of white redneck hysteria. Unlike a conventional Hollywood film, this stuff is handled with real humor and a touch of realism, not PC platitudes.

"Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle" does have more marijuana humor than anyone has seen since "Cheech and Chong" but unlike those '70s comedies, where the goal and the point was to get high, Kumar's obsession with buying some pot to smoke with his belly bombers is part of why he keeps screwing up everything, and becomes a gentle metaphor for Kumar's other self-destructive tendencies.

Unlike other low budget, lowbrow comedies, this one does not feel it has to stop being funny to make this point. Kumar makes plenty of comedy for us, and trouble for himself, his roommate Harold and several other people, on his misguided side trip. It is hard to accuse this movie of being an endorse-

ment of marijuana, although it does try to elevate belly bombers to a kind of nirvana status.

The short story on "Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle" is this: with my expectations very low, I was pleasantly surprised that I, like the audience around me, just laughed out loud over and over at this silly, low-brow comedy. Despite the film's cheesy, low budget effects, Kal Penn and John Cho breathed such life into their characters' antics that I could not help but laugh. The ethnic ribbing and stereotypes turned upside down only helped the comedy along, and gave the audience a bit to chew on afterwards, too. It is not high art, it is juvenile, but it sure was funny. Who knew a trip to White Castle could be so entertaining?

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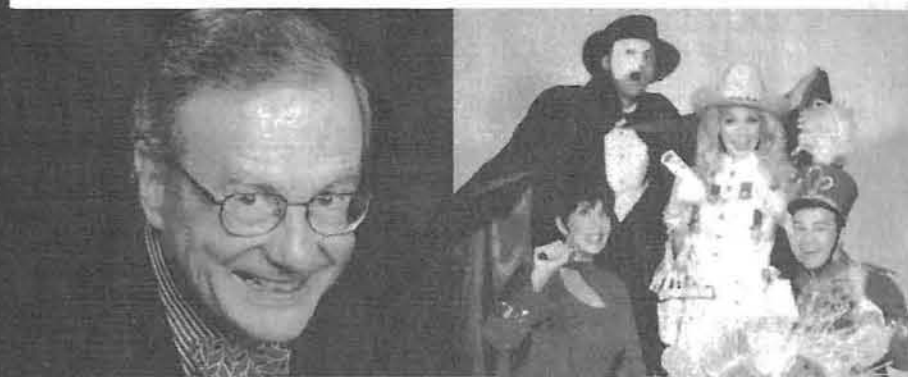
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SCHOLARSHIPS, from page 6

"The best time for continuing and returning students to apply is in December, for the next academic year."

Awards can range from \$500 up to \$5000 per year, or can even be full-ride scholarships. The dollar amount of the award depends on the college, high school, employer or organization that donates the scholarship.

Rethlake went on to say how stu-

dents could apply for more than one scholarship at a time.

"Say a student goes on-line to our website and they find scholarships that they are eligible for, say two or three, then one application will apply them for all three of them as long as they meet the criteria," she said.

Scholarships might require an essay, proposal, short story or information about the applicant to be submit-

ted for award consideration.

There are other resources that help students find scholarships. Online websites such as www.fastweb.com, www.collegescholarships.com and www.allscholar.com provide students with scholarship information and convenient search databases.

The search and dedication to receive a scholarship is all up to the students.

SUMMER VACATION, from page 6

The books that Jennings is referring to are the course catalogs that the university is no longer printing. Jennings said that without these booklets, registering for fall classes was difficult and confusing. He also mentioned that he regretted not

enrolling in summer classes and is now making up for lost time by preparing for the Spanish class he will soon be attending.

The days of summer have been filled with trips to the beach, hours spent by the pool and outings to base-

ball games. Mixed in were the occasional excursions to summer classes and attempts to earn extra money.

Now that summer is ending, it is time to prepare for the next nine months of classes, midterms and finals that lie ahead.

EYE CARE, from page 6

All interns and externs are supervised with follow check-ups given by other faculty members and professional opticians.

"The Eye Center gives students a variety of experience such as managing, identifying and diagnosing patients," Santhuff said.

The Eye Center is not only open to students, but also to the public.

Some of the services offered include Adult Comprehensive Eye Examinations, low vision rehabilitation, corneal topography, retinal photography and electrodiagnosis. The center also sells glasses and contacts.

Through the Student Health Services fee, many services are conducted at a discounted price or free of charge.

Students can receive a comprehensive eye examination for free.

"Last year, students were charged \$15 for an eye examine," Santhuff said. "The eye examination is about a \$70 value if students were to go elsewhere. This is a new free service given to students this year."

Students can also receive 50 percent off the cost of glasses, designer frames and lenses, 20 percent savings on contact lenses and 20 percent off on the cost of a contact eye examination.

The College of Optometry's Eye Center is affiliated with other eye care centers in Harvester, in Central West End, in St. Charles County, in East St. Louis and on the South Campus of UM-St. Louis.

The College of Optometry was established in 1980. UM-St. Louis

“
**Students can receive
a comprehensive eye
exam for free...This a
new free service
given to students this
year.**

— Tracy Santhuff, Manager of
Communications and Marketing
for the School of Optometry

offers a professional program which leads to the Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree, a Ph. D. in Physiological Optics and a M.S. Graduate program in vision science. Most students have already earned a

baccalaureate degree before they further their studies in these programs. There are currently only 17 programs in the United States where students can receive an O.D. degree. The O.D. is a four-year, full-time program for students interested in the field of Optometry. Each year about 40 students participate in this program.

All students must take an optometry entrance exam that includes a personal statement and a set on-campus interview, before they begin an optometry program.

"There are many things that are beneficial; the fact that we have a smaller class, we can communicate better and receive more personal attention with the professors," Hill said.

The University Eye Center is partners with other health care providers, hospitals, schools and community organizations. They have been operating and giving eye care to the public for over 20 years.

The University Eye Center is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

To find out more information about all of the services provided at the University EyeCenter or to make an appointment call 516-5131.

TATTOOING, from page 7

Before a tattoo was called a painting or staining or even a "tattaw," it was actually called a "tatau."

Samoans of the South Pacific, where Captain Cook learned of the news of "tattaw," call what we now know today as tattoo, "tatau." European sailors like Cook changed the word "tatau" to "tattoo" to fit their own native language.

Lewis-Harris said, "It is called 'tatau' because that is the sound a hammer makes when it drives the ink into the skin."

The Polynesian technique of tattooing in the South Pacific is still practiced today. First, the design is marked and major sections are outlined on the skin with either charcoal or colored earth. Then, the tattoo artist works with needles, which are often made of bird bone, turtle shell, bamboo, shark teeth and thorns.

Polynesian tattooing is a process of multiple taps where the skin is cut and ink is injected into the skin. The ink is a mixture of a variety of liquids including candlenut oil, sugar cane juice, coconut milk/water and other plant-based liquids or water to produce the ink.

Lewis-Harris went through this traditional process of tatau, twice, where she now bears two tatau on each arm when she was working for the government of Papua, New Guinea.

"I had been thinking about a tattoo for a while. My baby-sitter had a tattoo. And I wanted to show a commitment for the people I was working for," Lewis-Harris said.

"A tattoo is a sign of maturity in the Pacific. When you're tattooed, it means your part of the adult group. It is a mark of growing from immaturity to maturity. A right of passage. People who never get a tattoo are never really look upon as true adults. They are second-hand citizens," Lewis-Harris said.

Lewis-Harris continued, "After going through tattooing, you get a tolerance for pain. There are no painkillers. You have to be able to withstand pain and in the process find-out something about yourself. It is a badge of honor."

Lewis-Harris said she picked her tattoo much as they do in local tattoo parlors in the United States. Instead of looking through tattoo designs in flip boards, she chose one from a group of women who modeled them off for her.

"I picked a design based on a woman named Naomi," Lewis-Harris said.

Dobi Kidu, actress, dancer and political activist tattooed the "tree of life" on her arm.

After being tattooed with several thorns, Lewis-Harris said they used a banana leaf to lessen the pain.

"They washed a banana leaf off, and put it over a fire. Then when the sap is brought out of the leaf, it is slapped on the tattoo. The sap coats the tattoo and takes some of the swelling down," Lewis-Harris said.

Lewis-Harris' tattoo was done in



Photo courtesy Jacquelyn Lewis-Harris

A traditional tattoo, called "tatau" is tapped into the skin of a participant in the South Pacific. The name "tatau" is derived the sound of the animal bone instruments tapped onto the skin to create the tattoo.

Papua, New Guinea where the Polynesians have been using this art form for some 2,000 years. Captain Cook, who learned of tattooing in 1771, spread the word to Europeans, which led to its practice here in the United States today.

CenterStage Tattoos, located in U. City Loop, carries on the tradition of tattooing. Tattoo artist Amanda Marie Pepper has done over fifty tattoos while working for Center Stage Tattoos and says that tattoos can signify many different things.

"They can express your feelings. Can be considered as a timeline. You can look at it and remember exactly what you're going through at that time in your life. Even if you don't agree with it now you can look back and see what it meant to you then," Pepper said.

Pepper also said, "Tattoos are a form of nonverbal communication. It is how you want to be perceived by society. These are ideas that are on you."

College graduate Natasha Jones who received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from UM-St. Louis says she had two reasons for getting a tattoo of an Egyptian Phoenix on her lower back.

"I had two tattoos I wanted to cover, specifically a Chinese character

that had healed improperly. And, I wanted to get a tattoo that represented who I was and what I wanted to become," Jones said.

Jones said she picked the Egyptian Phoenix because, "A person who carries the phoenix is of high moral character, importance and wisdom."

Lewis-Harris says that tattoos are becoming more and more popular because people are making a stance of whom they are.

"Places where you find tattoos the most is where they under American control. It is a political statement. They cover their bodies from head to toe with tattoos so there's no guess work as to why they do it," Lewis-Harris said.

Lewis-Harris continued, "In Guam people are getting full body tattoos to make a statement against U.S. government for taking a lot of their land."

Tattoos, whether they are found on a 4,000-year-old iceman, used as a political statement in the South Pacific, or have become part of the pop culture in United States; have left their mark on humankind.

There are many different reasons why people get tattoos, but most get them as a symbol of their identity.

"I do think tattoos are about identity. I also think that tattoos for me help a person remember what they are about," Jones said.

TAX ASSESSMENTS, from page 1

The International Association of Assessing Officers, the leading professional organization for tax assessors approved the PPRC's research method "Standard on Ratio Studies," which was used as their main research tool, according to their news release that was sent out on July 26, 2004.

Gardner went on to say how this project was financed by the Missouri Growth Association, a trade group of owners, operators and developers of property.

This is just one of the many research studies that the PPRC has completed.

Telesa Nolan Administrative

Associate for the Public Policy Research Center shared examples of the different types of research and studies that have been done.

"There are three divisions: working with applied research, community and neighborhood development and Metropolitan Information and Data Analysis Services (MIDAS)," Nolan said. "The data analysis deals greatly with work force information and community based projects within the city for success rates. The evaluations of community and neighborhood development are done to enhance neighborhoods within the cities and the counties."

All of the research done at the PPRC is headed by the three directors of each division and completed with the help of other research assistants and specialists.

Nolan went on to say how most research assignments and funding for their projects are brought from organizations outside of the community.

This property tax assessment study was examined not only to show few problems with assessments, but also with the hopes that future appraisals and property tax rates will be more meticulous and equitable to owners.

ALCOHOL, from page 1

"Living in the dorms, I've never ran into a problem with people getting drunk, usually they go to the bars for that," said Hull. "I don't see a problem with that."

Under federal law, all campuses are required to have an alcohol and drug prevention program. The Wellness Resource Center at UM-St.

Louis educates students on responsible decision making with pamphlets, promotional items, information tables and other programs, including an information table at New Student Orientation.

"We provide intervention and referral so if there are any students who have had any problems then we

would see them and try to refer them to any kind of help they needed as far as treatment," Schmidt said. "If they have had any kind of alcohol violations on campus, then we would do ... screening to make sure they don't have any problems and to make sure they are responsible in alcohol drinking."

WORK STUDY, from page 6

To determine eligibility a student must apply with the Financial Aid Department and if they are eligible, the Financial Aid Department will then put the student in contact with Career Services who will inform them of job openings.

The Career Services Office will

host a job fair "Career Days" on Sept. 14 and Sept. 15, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Some companies expected to attend are Anheuser-Busch, Edward Jones, FedEx, Schnucks, Walgreens, Wells Fargo and St. Johns Mercy Medical Center. This event is open to all students who are interested in

employment opportunities and is free.

If you are interested in the Federal Work Study Program or employment information, visit the UM-St. Louis Financial Aid Department in room 327 of the Millennium Student Center or the Career Services web page.



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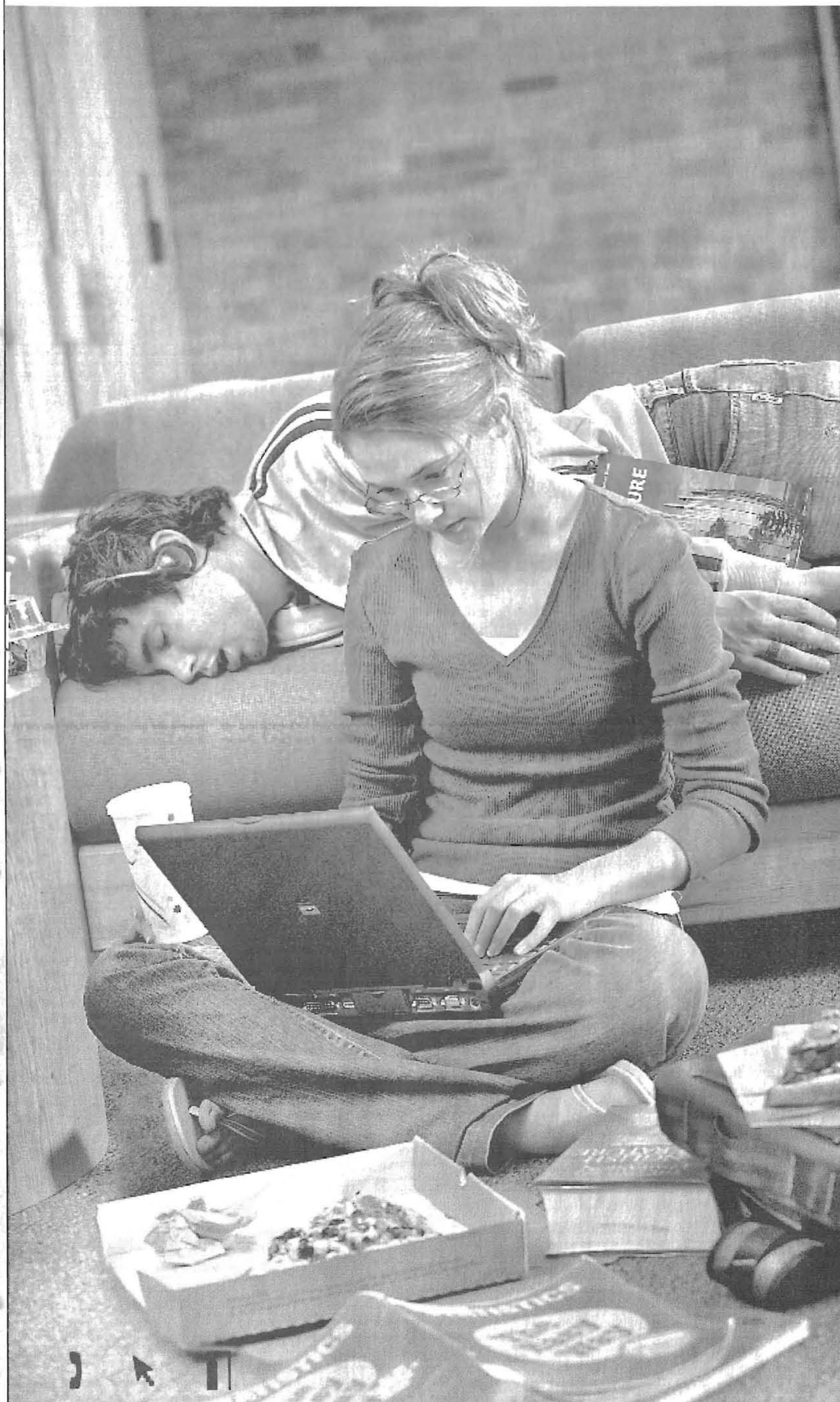
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KERRY RALLY, from page 1



Audience members at the John Kerry and John Edwards rally show their support by waving signs and flags. The rally was held at Union Station on August 5th.

Afterwards Astin spoke one-on-one with *The Current* saying that, "18 to 25 voters, in my estimation, are forward-thinking, intelligent, optimistic people who are looking for real depth and statesmanship as we prosecute our national interests abroad."

With the hoopla over and the crowd ready to burst Rep. Dick Gephardt, 3rd Congressional District, saying, "These are wonderful people. They're values are right; their heart is right," introduced Sen. Edwards to a deafening roar.

Edwards hammered on Kerry's Vietnam record, reminding the crowd "the truth is that when John graduated from college he volunteered for military service." He continued his speech by working the crowd up repeatedly chanting, "help is on the way." After inciting the crowd to a near fever Edwards stepped aside to introduce Kerry.

Kerry took center-stage as people chanted, "three more months." He wandered into typically Republican territory talking a lot about values. "We're sick of hearing about family



— “ —

Values are not the words you speak in a speech, they're the choices you make.

— Senator John Kerry (at left). —

” —

values when we need to start valuing families," Kerry said, "Values are not the words you speak in a speech they're the choices you make."

He accused the Bush administration of giving lip service to values then denying affordable prescription drugs to senior citizens, wanting to privatize social security, making veterans wait weeks for medical care, and giving tax cuts intended on benefiting the wealthy while ignoring the middle class.

Kerry, whose wife Teresa Heinz Kerry has considerable wealth from her ties to the Heinz Company, said

he stood against corporate ties and interests, sweeping unemployment and loopholes that effectively cause American citizens to subsidize the loss of their own jobs. He also spoke in favor of developing renewable energy sources.

As it has become routine Kerry, who voted in favor of the Iraq war resolution (which passed by a wider margin than did the 1991 resolution for the Gulf War), criticized the Bush administration. Kerry said the U.S. should, "never go to war because we want to, but because we have to."

STEM CELL RESEARCH, from page 5

Still, many countries have already banned this kind of human cloning. With s many other reproductive options, it is much harder to justify.

Therapeutic cloning is another matter. Stem cell research has the potential to cure many now incurable diseases and reverse the damage of injuries. Embryonic stem cells give rise to all the cells of the body. If one has a spinal cord injury, nerve cells have been destroyed, cells an adult body cannot replace on its own.

Using one's own DNA to create genetically identical stem cells to give rise to replacement neurons has the potential to make recovery possible. This kind of therapeutic cloning tailormakes stem cells for individual patients.

To do this, a nucleus from a patient's cell would be injected into an egg that had its own nucleus removed. As the resulting embryo develops in culture, stem cells with the patient's DNA could be harvested and injected into the patient. Other replacement cells could also be produced, cells to produce insulin for diabetes, a new liver or heart for transplant, and so forth. Because the DNA is identical, there are no issues about organ rejection and no need to find an organ donor.

The promise of stem cell research is enormous but the promise is only possibilities, because there are more unknowns than knowns for embryonic and somatic stem cells. The only remedy for this situation is research.

We can see the potential but research science is all about exploring the unknowns, which means sometimes you do not find what you expected. Gene therapy was once regarded as a technique to treat diseases that was expected to produce miracle cures. However, it has not yet lived up to its promise because gene regulation and expression, they way genes get switched on or off or how they interact within the body, is far more complex than researchers once thought.

Somatic stem cell research is the preferred option of some groups but scientists are aware that somatic stem cells and embryonic stem cells are not the same. Research really needs to occur on both fronts.

Embryonic stem cells can have disadvantages. Sometimes, transplanted

embryonic stems cells grow into tumors, rather than the target cells. Somatic stem cells present different challenges. There are intriguing differences between adult stem cells and embryonic ones.

In 2002, one researcher, Catherine Verfaillie of the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis, found adult stem cells in bone marrow that could give rise to all other cells, as could embryonic stem cells.

Would that finding circumvent the moral issues involved in cloning or would finding the adult stem cells prove too impractical to do? What is also unknown is any therapeutic differences between the adult stem cells and embryonic ones. In order to know the real benefits of stem cells, we have to do the research. Models and animal research can only take us so far, at some point we will need human stem cells and will have to include experiments using the source of those embryonic stem cells. One way to do this is to produce embryos to provide those stem cells for research.

But therein lies the problem for some folks. Potentially, embryonic stem cells could come from sources that already exist or the cells could be created using the DNA of particular patients.

The Bush administration endorsed one solution in 2001, by limiting government funded research to established lines of stem cells but restricted other options. Using the few already existing lines of cells that the Bush administration has creates a barrier to research, by creating a bottleneck and restriction the DNA patterns that can be examined. Other developed nations will not have this restriction and will be able to move ahead more quickly with their research. Restricting to this few lines seems an artificial barrier.

Curiously, we have actually already crossed the barrier of producing embryos that are never going to become babies. There are thousands of them in fertility clinics.

In vitro fertilization techniques use an excess of eggs and sperm to ensure fertilization. Many more embryos are produced than are needed, even though several are implanted at a time and often more than one attempt is needed. The extra, unneeded embryos are stored frozen, in an uncertain

limbo.

Do they belong to the parents, or to the lab, or something else? In their frozen state, they are just small clusters of cells and most of which will never move beyond that stage. Until they are implanted in a womb, they have no chance of developing into babies.

So here we get into difficult ethical, moral, and legal territory. As a society, we will need to decide to use these cells in limbo or not? Or is it better to create embryonic stem cells for use in research?

Some lean toward using embryos that are discards from fertility treatments over those created specifically to harvest the cells but either sparks fears over the ethics of such procedures. The populace is divided and legislators are frozen on how to deal with the issues of both perpetually frozen embryos and stem cell research with great but unexplored potential for health benefits for those already suffering from disease.

It is not an easy decision but we need to be aware that the whole developed world is looking at the same issue and may come to different conclusions than we will. However we decide to proceed, or not, here in this country, other nations are already moving forward.

In fact, Britain already has, by moving this month to license a facility to do therapeutic cloning for research into stem cells. The United Nations is also moving towards looking at the issues of both reproductive cloning and therapeutic cloning.

By licensing this kind of research, the UK makes clear its position on therapeutic cloning, before the discussion on human cloning at the United Nations scheduled for October 2004. During that discussion, U.N. member countries could agree to ban both human reproductive and therapeutic cloning.

Britain has already banned reproductive cloning and many countries, including Britain, and 67 of the world's national science academies are calling for an agreement to outlaw human reproductive cloning but to permit individual countries to make their own decisions about whether therapeutic cloning should be allowed or not.

WELCOME WEEK, from page 1



Shanna Carpenter, a student worker with the University Program Board, is decked out in a cowboy hat, fitting the theme of the "Red and Gold Round Up" barbeque on Sunday afternoon. Visitors were treated to food, prizes, and introductions to the members of UM-St. Louis sports teams.

Mike Sherwin/ The Current

The coaches of soccer, volleyball, golf, tennis, basketball, baseball and softball all introduced the team members and encouraged attendance at academic events. The athletes paid tribute to the men and women representing the United States in the 2004 Olympics by presenting the Olympic flag and carrying it around the room.

Everyone who attended the event received raffle tickets, handed out by members of Student Life. The DJ read out ticket numbers through the evening, and students redeemed winners for UM-St. Louis gear. Orinthia Montague, director of student life, asked trivia questions about faculty for prizes as well.

Chancellor Thomas George attended the event, and was also impressed by the enthusiasm and turnout.

Other Welcome Week activities will include Clearly You Crystals on Aug.19, from noon until 6 p.m., where students can get their faces etched into crystal as a keepsake. In the evening,

Honest John and other comedians will perform at the Pilot House. On Friday, Aug. 20, the University Meadows will host its annual MTV Beach Party. This year featured guests include Theo Gantt from MTV's The Real World Chicago and Amaya from The Real World Hawaii. A DJ from "The Point" radio station will emcee the Spoken Word contest in the Pilot House on Aug. 21. See the Campus Calendar for details and a complete listing of events.

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Hours: Facilitators will work a minimum 7-9 hours per week. There are 12 project sites with staggering times. The following is a list of scheduled times from which are available to work:

Monday and Wednesday: 2:00-3:30 p.m. or 2:30-4:15 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday: 2:00-3:30 p.m. or 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Monday and Friday: 2:00-3:30 p.m. or 4:00-5:30 p.m.

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WELCOME 20 Back 04

Sunday, August 15, 2004:

Welcome Back BBQ, 4:30-6:30pm, Nosh

Students, parents, families, friends, faculty and staff are all welcome to celebrate the beginning of another school year at the Welcome Back Picnic. The theme this year is the "Red & Gold Round Up." Gather your posse and come for some good ol' fashioned food and family fun.

Thursday, August 19, 2004:

Clearly You Crystals, 12-6pm, MSC

Clearly You Crystals is a 3-D scan of your face that is miraculously laser etched in sparkling clear crystal. A one-of-a-kind treasure that you get to take home with you! And it is only \$1!

Thursday, August 19, 2004:

Comedy Showcase featuring Honest John
7:00 pm, Pilot House, MSC

Start the school year off right and come join us to see the hysterically funny Honest John, who has been featured on Comedy Central and the Def Jam Comedy Tour. There will be a DJ and other comedians to make the evening a complete Comedy Showcase.

Friday, August 20, 2004:

MTV Beach Party, 8pm-Midnight
University Meadows Clubhouse & Pool

Theo Gantt from MTV's Real World Chicago and Amaya from MTV's Real World Hawaii will be making guest appearances at our annual weekend bash. FREE food, prizes, and giveaways, as well as a DJ! Don't forget about the Mechanical Bull Riding Contest, the Limbo Contest and the Aloha Sack Races for even more great prizes!

Saturday, August 21, 2004:

"Spoken Word" Contest, Pilot House

A DJ from KPNT Radio (The Point) will act as the MC throughout the night as a number of people get up to read and perform their poetry. Sponsored by Building Operations, the UMSL Bookstore and Student Life.

Monday, August 23, 2004:

Snow Cones, 11am-1pm MSC Bridge

Come meet the Campus Administrators, the Student Life staff and enjoy a refreshing FREE snow cone before or after class!

Tuesday, August 24, 2004:

Rec Sports Day, 11am-1pm, MSC Patio

Take a break and join Rec Sports for fun and games including a Free-Throw Basketball Contest and a Hole-in-One Golf Contest. There will be prizes for participants and the winners will also receive Rec Sports t-shirts!

Wednesday, August 25, 2004:

Karaoke, 10am-2pm, Pilot House, MSC

Come Karaoke with the University Program Board and the Office of Student Life! Free refreshments!

Wednesday, September 1, 2004:

Hump Day Hoopla, 11am-1pm, MSC

Come test your jousting skills and take a break from your classes! Check us out in front of the MSC, as all students are welcome to try out their skills for FREE! Also, look for other Hump Day Hoopla events such as Sumo Wrestling and Laser Tag every other Wednesday throughout the school year!

**UNIVERSITY
PROGRAM**
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - ST. LOUIS

For more info about any of these events, call (314)516-5531 or (314)516-5555, or stop by Student Life in 366 Millennium Student Center!
<http://www.umsu.edu/studentlife>